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LETTERS FROM NAHANT.

BY AN EDITOR.

Wheldon, William Wilder

William Wilder Wheldon

BOSTON.

Press of the Bunker-Hill Aurora.

1832.

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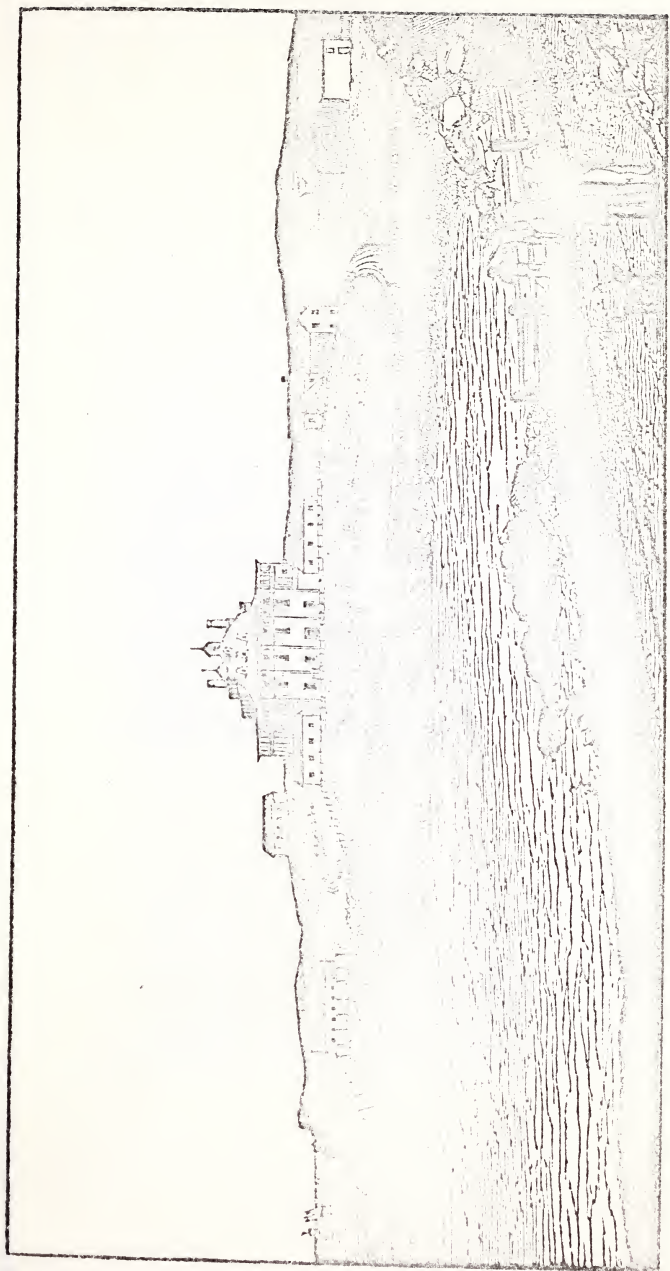
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NOTE.

In publishing these hastily-written Letters in this form, the writer's only object is to aid in making Nahant, its desirableness as a healthful summer-residence, and as a quiet and delightful "watering place," more generally known,—especially among travellers and tourists from various sections of our country. He claims but little credit on the score of originality,—the labor having been in a great degree that of compilation; and if their present publication shall do anything in spreading the knowledge or adding to the interest of Nahant, or afford to its residents and visitors, amusement for a leisure hour, all his ends will have been fully accomplished.

LETTER I.

Holman's Hotel—Head-Quarters of Fashion—Leave business at home—Mr Holman and his management—Sea-air and fish—Lewis's History of Lynn—Nahant mortgaged for £20 sterling.

We are on the busy move here. The season, although perhaps a little later than usual, so far has opened very favorably. Holman's House is the great head-quarters of fashion, gaiety and enjoyment—and is not only exceedingly well-filled as to numbers, but in all other respects, well. The company of course, is very large; yet they are provided with everything desirable, and there is no reason why they should not enjoy themselves. Notes pass occasionally, and the sweetest notes from the piano and the human voice are often to be heard; but notes to pay are seldom thought of. When people come here they generally leave business affairs behind them, and forget, so far as they may, the trials and perplexities incident to business-life. Nahant is the place for relaxation, where one wants to pass a few weeks of unvexed leisure; where he may, by the aid of the sea-air, the bath and other virtues of the place, invigorate his whole system, and at the

same time, enjoy unalloyed with harrassing cares, the delights of social intercourse.

Amidst all his company, and whatever his multifarious duties, or whatever excitements others may feel, Mr Holman is always the same,—calm, unruffled, courteous, and so far as his house is concerned, present everywhere. He is a man of a million, and by his gentlemanly bearing, kindness and attention to everybody, his presence adds to the attractions, as it does to the comfort and enjoyment of this delightful summer resort.

The sea-air of Nahant was never more pure or more invigorating to the constitution, than at the present season. The fish,—abundant and fine as they always are,—appear to be this season even more abundant than usual. They are taken daily, in great numbers with a light rod, from off the rocks near the hotel, and some gentlemen are seen forwarding fine strings of large Perch to their friends in the warm and dusty city.

As I may remain here, in most excellent quarters, for a few days, I propose to say few words, as leisure affords opportunity, about Nahant, its history, characteristics, &c. The name and fame of Nahant have been rehearsed and sung by prosers and poet, and its rocks and beaches have been the theme of the historian and the subject of the painter,—and yet the half has never been said, sung or painted. I do not suppose, however, that I shall be able to furnish anything *very* original, in what I may have to offer. I shall give such facts as I may be able to gather in relation to its history, its early ap-

pearances and uses, natural history and curiosities, and shall rely on others to furnish most of the material, raw or manufactured, just as I can find it to suit my purpose. Alonzo Lewis, Esq. in his history of Lynn, has given a great amount of interesting historical information, concerning Nahant, and from his work in particular, I shall be obliged to make liberal quotations.

It may yet appear that some of our friends in Charlestown are more interested in Nahant than they now imagine, for I find by a quotation from the Registry of Deeds in Suffolk, that Winnepurkitt, one of the Sagamores, in April 1652, *mortgaged* "all that Tract or Neck of Land, commonly called Nahant," to Nicholas Davison of Charlestown, "for twenty pounds sterling dew many yeer." What may grow out of the discovery of this fact I do not know, but it is true that the Nahant was for many years the subject of zealous litigation. The Plantation finally held it, against Farmer Dexter's purchase and claim.

LETTER II.

Nahanta—Nahanton—the Sachem Montowampate—Visit to England—Death—Small pox among the Indians—benevolence of Samuel Maverick—Winnepurkitt arrives to the succession of his brother, aged 13 years—Marries Joane, of Nahant—their children—Winnepurkitt goes to Barbadoes—Is the last of the Sagamores—Aberginians and their Sachem—"Squaw Sachem."

NAHANT is said to be an Indian term, meaning an Island. This may be so, but I think a different definition has been given, not now remembered. Nahanta was the wife of an Indian Chief, and according to tradition, the *sauks* or queen of Montowampate. Nahanton was a cousin of this chief, and was born (on Nahant?) in 1606.

Montowampate was the Sachem of the Saugus Indians and lived on Sagamore Hill, a high bluff rock, near the head of Long Beach in Lynn. He had the jurisdiction of Lynn and Marblehead. It is related of Montowampate that, "having been defrauded of twenty beaver skins, by a man in England named Watts, he went to Governor Winthrop, on the 26th March, 1631, to solicit his assistance in recovering their value. The Governor entertained him kindly, and gave him a letter to Emanuel Downing, Esq. of London. Tradition asserts that

he went to England, where he was received with much respect, and obtained remuneration for his fur; but disliking the English delicacies, he hastened back to Saugus, to the enjoyment of his clams and succatash." This Sachem, who was called also James Sagamore, died in December 1633, of the small pox. Gov Winthrop gives the following interesting account of his death, and of the ravages of that horrible disease, among the natives:

"1633, December 5.] John Sagamore died of the small pox, and almost all his people; (above thirty buried by Mr Maverick of Winesemett in one day.) The towns in the bay took away many of the children; but most of them died soon after.

"James Sagamore of Sagus, died also, and most of his folks. John Sagamore desired to be brought among the English, (so he was;) and promised (if he recovered) to live with the English and serve their God. He left one son, which he disposed to Mr Wilson, the pastor of Boston; to be brought up by him. He gave to the governour a good quantity of wampompeague, and to divers others of the English he gave gifts; and took order for the payment of his own debts and his men's. He died in a persuasion that he should go to the Englishmen's God. Divers of them, in their sickness, confessed that the Englishmen's God was a good God; and that, if they recovered, they would serve him.

"It wrought much with them, that when their own people forsook them, yet the English came daily and ministered to them; and yet few, only two families, took any infection by it. Among others,

Mr Maverick of Winesemett, is worthy of a perpetual remembrance. Himself, his wife and servants, went daily to them, ministered to their necessities, and buried their dead, and took home many of their children. So did other of their neighbors."

Montowampate, (or James Sagamore,) was succeeded in his government, by his brother Winnepurkitt, at the age of 13 years, and this chief,—it may be interesting to remark here,—*married his wife from Nahant*. Winnepurkitt, otherwise called George Rumney Marsh, was born at Medford, probably in the year 1620, and resided there with his father until called to the vacant Sachemship of his brother, in 1633. Concerning his wife and her family, Lewis has gathered the following:

"Poquannum, or Dark Skin, lived on Nahant. He had two children. 1. Queakussen, born in 1611, and generally known by the familiar appellation of "Captain Tom." He removed to Mistick, and afterwards to Patucket. Mr Gookin, in a deposition, 1686, says he is "an Indian of good repute, and professes the Christian religion." 2. Ahawayets-quaine, called Joane, who married Winnepurkitt."

Winnepurkitt, (as I much prefer to speak of these native children of the forest by their Indian names,) was the proprietor of Deer Island in Boston harbor. He had three daughters, viz: Petagunsk, called Cicely; Wuttaquattinusk, or the Little Walnut, called Sarah; Petagoonaquah, called Susannah,—In the latter part of his life he went to Barbadoes. It is supposed that he was carried there with the prisoners who were sold for slaves at the end of

Phillips war. He was also the proprietor of the tract of land on which Marblehead was built, which was sold to that town, after his death, by his heirs; and he seems to have had a claim to Nahant, from his giving Mr Davison a mortgage of it.

Winnepurkitt was the last of the Lynn Sagamores! He died in 1684, soon after his return from Barbadoes; and his wife,—the first wooed and probably the first wedded of the native children of Nahant,—died the following year.

The Saugus or Lynn Indians belonged to the great nation called Aberginians, extending from Charles River to the Merrimack, governed by a powerful Sachem, called Nanepashemet or the New Moon. The Sagamores Wonohaquaham, (John Sagamore of Winesmett,); Montowampate, (James Sagamore of Lynn,); and Winnepurkitt, the last of the Sagamores, were the sons of the "New Moon," who had a daughter also, called Abigail. Whether Masconomond, the Sagamore of Agawam, (now Ipswich,) was of the same family, I have not ascertained. Nanepashemet lived at Medford, and was killed about the year 1619. The government was continued by his queen, called "Squaw Sachem," to whom most of the tribes in Massachusetts were subject. In 1635, she had a second husband, whose name was Wappacowet.

So much I have thought it might be interesting to say relative to the history of these Indians, who had so much to do with Nahant, at this early period of our history.

LETTER III.

Ownership of Nahant—"Black William" the original proprietor—he sold it to Thomas Dexter for a suit of clothes—Dexter's lawsuit with the plantation for Nahant—Depositions and historical information—Nahant used for pasturing Cattle, and again sold for "two pestle stones."

As regards the original ownership of Nahant, it appears to be evident, that in 1629, it belonged to an Indian Chief, who was called by the English, Duke William or Black Will. His father was a Sachem, lived at Swampscot, and died before the English arrived. Black William was killed by some of the white people, in 1633.

"Nahant seems to have been sold several times to different individuals, by Black William, who also gave it to the plantation for a sheep pasture. A fence of rails put near together, was made across the reach near Nahant to keep out the wolves, as it is said those animals do not climb. In autumn the swine were let loose in the woods, that they might fatten themselves on nuts and acorns."

In 1630, Black William sold Nahant to Thomas Dexter, for a *suit of clothes*, a fact in the history of Nahant, which has become very generally known. Thomas Dexter lived on the western bank of Saugus river, was an active and enterprising man, and

probably something of a land speculator. He built a mill and a wear across Saugus river; owned eight hundred acres of land, and by way of excellence, was called Farmer Dexter. Among his other speculations, he purchased Nahant of Black William for a suit of clothes. This purchase gave rise to an expensive law-suit between Farmer Dexter and the town, in 1657, the following account of which is taken from Lewis, who quotes from the files of the Quarterly Court:

"Mr Thomas Dexter, who claimed Nahant as a purchase from Black William, commenced an action, at the Quarterly Court, on the 3d of June, against the town, for occupying it. The case was defended by Thomas Loughton, George Keysar, Robert Coats, and Joseph Armitage, in behalf of the town. The following depositions were given:

1. "Edward Ireson, aged 57 yeares or thereabouts, sworne, saith, that living with Mr Thomas Dexter, I carried the fencing stuffe which master Dexter sett up to fence in Nahant, his part with the rest of the Inhabitants, and being and living with mr Dexter, I never heard him say a word of his buying of Nahant, but only his interest in Nahant for his fencing with the rest of the inhabitants, this was about 25 years since, and after this fence was set up at nahant, all the new comers were to give two shillings sixpence a head or a piece vnto the setters up of the fence or inhabitants, and some of Salem brought Cattell alsoe to nahant, which were to give soc."

2. "The Testimony of Samuel Whiting senr: of ye Towne of Linne, Saith, that Mr Humphries did

desire that mr Eaton and his company might not only buy Nahant, but the whole Towne of Linne, and that mr Cobbet and he and others of the towne went to mr Eaton to offer both to him, and to commit themselves to the providence of God, and at that time there was none that laid claim to or pleaded any interest in nahant, Save the town, and at that time farmer Dexter lived in the towne of Linne."—The Mr Eaton here mentioned, was Theophilus Eaton, afterwards Governor of Connecticut.

3. "The Dep. of Daniel Salmon, aged about 45 yeares, saith, that he being master Humphreye's servant, and about 23 yeares ago, there being wolves in nahant, commanded that the whole traine band to goe drive them out, because it did belong to the whole towne, and farmer Dexter's men being then at training, went with the rest."

4. "This I Joseph Armitage, aged 57 or thereabouts; doe testifie, that about fifteen or sixteen yeares agoe, wee had a generall towne meeting in Lin, at that meeting there was much discourse about nahant, the men that did first fence at nahant and by an act of generall court did apprehend by fencing that nahant was theires, myself by purchase haveing a part therein, after much agitation in the meeting, and by persuasion of mr Cobbitt, they that then did plead a right by fencing, did yield up all their right freely to the Inhabitants of the Towne, of which Thomas Dexter senr was one."

5. "We, Geo. Sagamore and the Sagamore of Agawam, doe testify that Duke William so called did sell all Nahant unto farmer Dexter for a suite of clothes,

which cloathes farmer Dexter had again, and gave vnto Duke William so called 2 or 3 coates for it again.' This deposition was signed with an S, as the mark of Masconomond; and with a bow and arrow, as the mark of Winnepurkitt.

"Other depositions were given by Richard Walker, Edward Holyoke, George Farr, Christopher Lindsey, William Dixey, William Witter, John Ramsdell, John Hedge, William Harcher, and John Legg. The Court decided in favor of the defendants; and Mr Dexter appealed to the Court of Assistants."

The two following paragraphs, also from Lewis, afford some further information concerning Nahant, and the use which was made of it. William Dixey came over as a servant of Mr Isaac Johnson, and was admitted a freeman in 1634.

On his arrival, application was made by his master, for him and others, "for a place to sitt downe in; upon which," he says, "mr. Endecott did give me and the rest leave to goe where wee would; upon which I went to Saugust, now Linne, and there we met with Sagamore James and som other indians, whoe did give me and the rest leaue to dwell there or thereabouts; whereupon I and the rest of my master's company did cut grass for our cattell, and kept them upon nahant for som space of time; for the Indian James Sagamore and the rest did give me and the rest, in behalf of my master Johnson, what land we would; whereupon wee sett down in Saugust, and had quiet possession of it by the above said Indians, and kept our cattell in nahant the sumer following."

1630. "William Witter was a farmer, and resided at Swampscot. He says, "Blacke will, or duke william, so called, came to my house (which was two or three miles from Nahant) when Thomas Dexter had bought Nahant for a suit of clothes, the said Black will Asked me what I would give him for the Land my house stood vpon, it being his land, and his flather's wigwame stood their abouts, James Sagomore and John, and the Sagomore of Agawame, and diuers more, And George Sagomore, being a youth was present, all of them acknowldginge Black will to be the Right owner of the Land my house stood on, and Sagomore Hill and Nahant was all his;" and adds "that he bought Nahant and Sagomer Hill and Swamseate of Black William for two pestle stones."

It would appear from the first of the above quotations that Sagamore James, (Montowampate,) exercised the authority of his government in disposing of Nahant, or at least of the use of it, while from the second paragraph, according to Witter, he allowed that it belonged to Black William. Winnepurkitt, his successor, also attempted to dispose of it, as appears by the mortgage already mentioned. But this last sale of Nahant, including Sagamore Hill, (where the reigning monarchs appear to have resided,) and Swampscot, "for two pestle stones," is cheap beyond all account.

LETTER IV.

Use made of Nahant—Swine let loose in the woods—
Description of Nahant, in 1633, written by William
Wood—Very full and complete—Remarks.

I gave you in my last some very interesting particulars relative to the History of Nahant and its ownership. The facts stated in the extracts then communicated, were mostly new to me, or if I had seen them in print before, it was in such connection with other matter as to escape my particular attention. It was clear, it seemed to me, by the depositions from the files of the Court, that Duke William really sold Nahant to Farmer Dexter; but it does not appear that he ever obtained possession of his purchase. From the very first, it was used as a pasture, common to the plantation, although infested by wolves, bears and other wild beasts. Even from Salem, the settlers brought their cattle to Nahant in the summer; and in the autumn, the *swine* were "let loose in the *woods* that they might fatten themselves on nuts and acorns."

The following full, graphic and particular *description of Nahant*, is taken from "New England's Prospect," written in 1633, by William Wood, which work was undertaken, according to his account,

“because there hath been many scandalous and false reports past upon the Country, even from the sulphurous breath of every base ballad monger.”

“The next plantation is Saugus, sixe miles North-east from Winnesinet. This Towne is pleasant for situation, seated at the bottom of a Bay, which is made on the one side with the surrounding shore, and on the other side with a long sandy Beach.— This sandy Beach is two miles long, at the end whereof is a necke of land called Nahant. It is sixe miles in circumference, well wooded with Oakes, Pines, and Cedars. It is beside well watered, having, beside the fresh Springs, a great Pond in the Middle, before which is a spacious Marsh.— In this necke is a store of good ground, fit for the Plow; but for the present it is onely used for to put young Cattle in, and weather goates, and Swine, to secure them from the Woolues; a few posts and rayles, from the low water markes to the shore, keepes out the Woolves and keepes in the Cattle.— One Black William, an Indian Duke, out of his generosity, gave this place in generall to this plantation of Saugus, so that no other can appropriate it to himselfe.

“Vpon the South side of the sandy Beach the Sea beateth, which is a true prognostication to pre-sage stormes and foule weather, and the breaking up of the Frost. For when a storme hath beene, or is likely to be, it will roare like Thunder, being heard sixe miles; and after stormes casts up great stores of great Clammes, which the Indians, taking out of their shels, carry home in baskets. On the

North side of this Bay is two great Marshes, which are made two by a pleasant River which runnes between them. Northward up this river goes great store of Alewives, of which they make good Red Herrings; insomuch that they have been at charges to make them a wayre, and a Herring house, to dry these Herrings in; the last yeare were dried some 4 or 5 Last, [about 150 barrels] for an experiment, which proved very good; this is like to prove a great inrichment to the land, (being a staple commoditie in other Countries,) for there be such innumerable companies in every river, that I have seen ten thousand taken in two houres, by two men, without any weire at all, saving a few stones to stone their passage up the river. There likewise come store of Basse, which the Indians and English catch with hooke and line, some fifty or three score at a tide. At the mouth of this river runnes up a great creeke into that great Marsh, which is called Rumny Marsh, which is 4 miles long, and 2 miles broad, halfe of it being Marsh ground, and halfe upland grasse, without tree or bush; this Marsh is crossed with divers creekes, wherein lye great store of Geese and Duckes. There be convenient ponds for the planting of Duck coyes. Here is likewise belonging to this place, divers fresh meadowes, which afford good grasse; and four spacious ponds, like little lakes, wherein is store of fresh fish, within a mile of the towne; out of which runnes a curious fresh brooke, that is seldom frozen by reason of the warmenesse of the water; upon this stream is built a water Milne, and up this river come

Smelts and frost fish, much bigger than a Gudgeon. For wood there is no want, there being store of good Oakes, Walnut, Cedar, Aspe, Elme. The ground is very good, in many places without trees, and fit for the Plough. In this place is more English tillage, than in all New-England, and Virginia besides; which proved as well as could be expected; the corn being very good, especially the Barly, Rye, and Oates.

"The land affordeth to the inhabitants as many varieties as any place else, and the sea more; the Basse continuing from the middle of April to Michaelmas, [29th Sept.] which stayes not half that time in the Bay, [Boston Harbour]; besides, here is a great deal of Rock cod and Macrill, insomuch that shoales of Basse have driven up shoales of Macrill, from one end of the sandie beach to the other; which the inhabitants have gathered up in wheelbarrowes. The Bay which lyeth before the Towne, at a low spring tyde will be all flatts for two miles together; upon which is great store of Muscledbanckes, and Clam bancks, and Lobsters among the rockes and grassie holes. These flatts make it unnavigable for shippes; yet at high water, great Boates, Loiters, and Pinnaces of 20 and 30 tun, may saile up to the plantation; but they neede have a skilfull Pilote, because of many dangerous rockes and foaming breakers, that lye at the mouth of that Bay. The very aspect of the place is fortification enough to keep off an unknowne enemy; yet it may be fortified at little charge, being but few landing places thereabout, and those obscure."

This description of Nahant is remarkable, and like all the productions of that early period, is quaint and minute, embracing almost every mentionable thing about Nahant. To all who are acquainted with the portion of country described, from Chelsea to Salem, it will appear not a little remarkable that so full and complete an idea of the country, its character, soil, appearances, uses, productions, rivers, creeks, ponds, marshes, harbor, fish, the manner of taking them, &c. &c. could have been given in so few words. Nothing seems to have escaped the observation of Mr. Wood, as nothing can exceed the graphic, and sometimes beautiful language, which he has employed. How remarkable and beautiful his last sentence appears, to any one at all acquainted with the rugged, rock-bound headland of Nahant! How truly he says, "the very aspect of the place is fortification enough to keep off an unknown enemy; yet it may be fortified at little charge, being but few landing places thereabout, and those obscure." I have not been able to obtain a copy of Mr. Wood's "New England's Prospect," but it appears to me that he has shown himself possessed of a strong and comprehensive mind, not highly cultivated perhaps, as we should now think, but capable of taking enlarged views of things and presenting strong and distinct pictures to his readers. His work must have had a good effect in dispelling the "scandalous and false reports" to which he alludes.

LETTER V.

Nahant not fully appreciated—Sunrise at Nahant—Morning walk—Taste for Scientific pursuits—Taste for something—Long Beach.

IN preceding letters from this far-famed Peninsula, I have given some brief sketches of early history, connected with it,—the subject is now by no means exhausted and will be referred to and continued in future letters. It may not be uninteresting at this time, to give as well as I may be able, some little idea of Nahant itself, not with regard to its topography particularly, but chiefly as a place of residence and resort.

I have long been of the opinion that this delightful and salubrious summer retreat, is not properly appreciated, highly as it is estimated by the thousands who annually visit it. But a transient visit,—while the steam boat stops at the landing,—cannot afford a correct or adequate idea of Nahant, its beauties, wonders or luxuries. It requires a week, or perhaps a whole season, to see Nahant as it should be seen to be fully appreciated,—not a week of fine weather, for better is it by far that it should be *interspersed* with a storm or two. Nahant needs to be seen under all its aspects,—under the darkening cloud, amidst the roaring ocean, whitened by the

foaming billows, and illuminated by the flashing lightning; as well as in the broad sunshine of noon, when the blue and beautiful ocean is spread out to the eye, until sky and sea forms a common line, when the breathing south wind comes softly over the water and cools the feverish temple with its balmy air.

Much has been said of the indescribable magnificence of a Sun Rising at sea, and it certainly is a display of splendor and of gorgeous light only to be equalled by a sun rising at Nahant, which is very much the same thing. The sun is beheld emerging from the limitless surface of the ocean, reeking as it were, in all his glory, while the sky presents a far-spreading canopy of gold. The scattered sails on the ever-heaving bosom of the sea, are gilded with the glorious light, and the market-fishermen, as the day advances, are seen in their *dorys*, like flies on the wave. But it is not the sun only, in all the glory of his rising, which is pleasant and grateful to the early riser at Nahant: in the midst of the ocean, the air is pure and invigorating, and all around is the silent grandeur and vast magnificence of nature's works. The swelling sea, with scarcely a breeze-ripple on its bosom, dashes against the rugged shore and rolls its white foam over the cliffs and in the deep crannies of the rocks.

A morning walk at Nahant, is one of the most exhilarating and healthful pleasures of the place, whether it be in the gravelled walks, on the "sandie beach," or bounding over the craggy rocks,—there is everywhere enough to engage the attention, wheth-

er it be directed to botany, conchology, mineralogy, *fishology*, or mere curious observation. No one need to have his time hang heavily about him, whether he has a taste for scientific pursuits or for the enjoyment of natural scenery,—for the most sluggish can enjoy his bed in the warmest nights or hottest mornings, and such at least are sure to have a taste for a good breakfast, in the expectancy of which, at Holman's, he will not be disappointed.

Nevertheless, it is absolutely necessary that the visiter at Nahant should have a taste for *something*,—it hardly matters what it is for, but taste of some sort he must have. If it be a taste for reading, cool and airy retreats are easily found; if for pleasant scenes and natural grandeur, these are open before him; if for science, in things of the air, earth or sea, he may enjoy and cultivate it; if for pedestrian or equestrian exploits, he may enjoy it; if for fashion, and foppery, he can show himself as he pleases and find plenty of observers; or if for bathing, fishing, or shooting, he may swim, fish or shoot to his heart's content. In addition to all this, there are other amusements, common to similar resorts, in which ladies, gentlemen and children can indulge in various parts of the day.

The mid-day at Nahant, including the hours immediately preceding and succeeding the hour of dining, is generally embraced for a ride to the Long Beach,—one of the most delightful drives in the world. Ladies and gentlemen set off from Holman's in carriages, barouches, chaises, on horseback, in parties, to enjoy a ride over this remarkable beach.

It has always seemed to us that neither pen nor pencil, nor both combined under the most favorable circumstances, could

... favorable
... give any truly adequate idea of NAHANT Beach, and the ceaseless ocean-wave which rolls over its smoothened surface. It is an exhibition of natural beauty and grandeur, neither to be described nor painted. It is beyond the poet's as the painter's art—it is too sublime, too vast, too overwhelming for the power of language. Words,—mere words,—are not large enough! The sublime immensity of a single wave—as it comes rolling on in its changing colors and overhanging fullness, and its crest of glittering diamonds, which spreads in bursting bubbles at your feet,—not only exhausts but exceeds all language. The broad and far-extending Beach, with its almost rockless and unruffled surface;—a deadened mirror of evenness and beauty,—a ball room, as it were, vast enough for all the sea-nymphs of the great Atlantic to celebrate their gala days,—is not to be put in mere words, cannot be described except in living characters equivalent to its own immensity. It is a whole language,—even more, an eternity in itself,—and can no more be written than the blue arch of heaven. Nor can it be described in parts—there is no power, no method, by which to convey to another, as a whole or in portions, an adequate idea of its sublime grandeur. It fills the mind too full for the power of language; thought itself is checked: expression fails wholly, and we are either absorbed in admiration and wonder, or aim to unchain the mind from its enchantment by the force of some careless re-

mark. It is like the *Ocean*—who can describe or paint the *Ocean*? If it were *still* and motionless, who can describe its magnificent vastness or paint its glorious depths? Its eternal upheaving bosom, its limitless immensity, its crested waves kissing the air in bursting chrystals,—who can convey these to the unpresent mind in language? Who can picture, in words or colors, as it is, a single wave, in its moving life? Why then talk of putting into words,—characters more diminutive than its gentlest ripple—the *Ocean* itself, in contact with its almost equal wonder, the far-spread Beach of Nahant?

LETTER VI.

Nahant beginning to be appreciated—Erection of the hotel in 1820—Its architecture, &c.—Addition to the main building—Its architectural deformity balanced by its convenience—Employment of time—Breakfast, Dinner, Tea—Evening amusements—Fashion the life of Love—Evening walk—Cool sleep.

COMPANY continues to flock to Holman's Hotel, and the several minor houses on the Nahant are well filled and daily visited by large numbers. Nahant is, we may almost say, *beginning* to be appreciated. It has gradually grown into favor and is more appreciated as it is more visited.—It wears well and

improves upon acquaintance. It is now some seventeen years since the erection of the Hotel, which took place in 1829, and from that time Nahant has grown to be one of the most celebrated "watering places" in the country. This Hotel is on the most southerly or southeasterly point of Nahant,—the ocean head-land,—and is built of native stone, taken from the immediate vicinity of its location.—The interior arrangements and the architecture of the building, have been repeatedly commended by connoisseurs, for their convenience and good taste. The appearance of the building is light, airy and elegant, as such a building should be in such a place. It contains nearly one hundred rooms; but these and the general accommodations of the house having become wholly inadequate to the accommodation of the company, some five or six years ago a large additional building was erected, connected on the southerly side of the former edifice, which affords above a hundred rooms and a very large and commodious dining-hall. But,—shocking to relate,—to any person of the least taste in architecture, it presents one of the grossest violations of propriety, which the eye of man ever beheld. All that possibly can be said in defence of it, is, that it answers well all the purposes for which it was intended. It is a tremendous deformity; a shocking excrescence! Yet we feel some "compunctious visitings of conscience" as to abusing it in these unmeasured terms, since it affords us such delightful accommodations. It must be endured, we suppose, because it is commodious. The out-buildings, the billiard

hall, bathing-house, and even the bowling allies, and we had almost said the ice-house and hen-coops, are all in good taste, especially the first-named, which is really a neat but small sample of the "Grecian temple" style. These, (although we did not mean to say anything more about it,) are all put to the blush by the "convenient addition!" However, as we enjoy the occupancy of very airy and pleasant rooms, enclosed by its outward ugliness, commanding most extensive views of the city and neighboring towns, and especially of the far-extending ocean, it may be as well to admit, (as we now do) that its interior advantages make ample amends for its exterior deformity. The handsome, cool and commodious dining hall, also,—we confess we have much respect for that, in consideration of its own excellent qualities and the service to which it is appropriated.

In our last, (and here we beg the reader's leave to use the editorial plural,) we gave some sketch of what might be done or seen at Nahant, to employ the time, and especially at morning and noon. A word of the evening hour may not be amiss here, particularly as we have been talking of the hotel.—Breakfast is by many considered a dull meeting,—Dinner is often made as it were, a matter of business, generally to be *despatched*, as some of the railroad folks say, but Tea is a merry meeting. We confess we have not always found it so; but *after tea* is the social hour at Nahant. At this time, the ladies and gentlemen, with all their little responsibilities, generally repair to the long drawing-room.

Some of the nimble fingers are always ready for the piano forte, and some of the nimble feet are ever ready for the dance, and thus the evening's social pleasures are commenced. The "young people" play, dance and sing, while those who choose enjoy the familiar conversation, enlivened by delicate and sparkling wit. The senior part of the company congregate in groups, while many a soft word passes between those of fewer years, and who are more sensible to the mild influences of love. There is a fashion in everything, and not less in young love than in other things. Fashion is, in some sense, the life of love. People love, sometimes, because it is the fashion, and fashionable people must not be unfashionable. But we prove our position syllogistically thus: fashion is true taste, (or ought to be,) true taste is lovely; whatever is lovely is the life of love;—why then should not Nahant be the peculiar abode of the fickle goddess? Lovely in itself; fashionable for itself,—it is, for a season, the favorite resort of young hearts, worshipping at the shrine of the blind goddess.

There is nothing of dullness in an evening at Nahant. A walk, in the mild light of the moon, to the Spouting Horn, Swallow's Cave, or to any of the rocky prominences, is delightful,—the calm and unbroken quietude that reigns over the scene, is soothing to the mind, while the cool, pure air, invigorates the body. The glittering diamonds of the skies, shine out with a clearer brilliancy in the transparent air of Nahant, and the ocean-wave curls its white foam, to catch, as it were, pearly gems from their

soft light. The white sail is seen on the heaving wave, or it may be, lifted into the horizon, where the sky and sea unite in one line of space. The distant light houses cast their light across the broad expanse of waters for the mariners' aid and direction. These and other scenes serve to engage the attention and gratify the taste, before the hour of retiring, which invariably comes along sooner than is expected. A night's sleep at Nahant, in hot weather, is a luxury no-where else to be enjoyed— if ice is a luxury at Canton, so is a bed at Holman's of a hot August night! To be appreciated it must be enjoyed—no one can describe its invigorating influence.

LETTER VII.

Cultivation of trees—Nahant robbed of its wood for fuel—Robert Page presented for 'setinge saille' with wood on Sunday—Order of the town for clearing the land—Nahant a neck of land—Stumps of trees on the Beach—Considerations concerning Nahant; its past and present uses, its growth as a place of resort.

You could not but have remarked the fact stated, that in 1630, Nahant was well covered with forest trees, of various kinds, which since that time have all been destroyed. There are now but few trees of any age on the Peninsula, and those are principally

willows. Efforts have been repeatedly made in years past, to rear trees of every description on Nahant, which so far, excepting in relation to the Balm of Gilead, have proved unsuccessful. Of this last description, Mr. Tudor has raised a great number, and they have been set out along the road and over the peninsula very generally. They have thrived pretty well so far, and seem to stand the winter and winds very successfully.

Nahant was robbed of its wood, probably, as the islands in Boston Harbor were,—for firewood. For instance, the inhabitants of Boston supplied themselves with wood from Noddle's Island, now East Boston, and probably from the other islands. We find, in reference to Nahant, that on the 13th of June, 1668,—“ Robert Page of Boston, was presented for settinge saille from Nahant; in his boate, *being Loaden with wood*, there by Profaining the Lord's daye.” It was no offence to take wood from Nahant—the offence appears to have consisted in taking it *on Sunday*. On the contrary, the town of Lynn, in 1656 passed an order for the clearing of the land, laying a penalty of 50 shillings on those who neglected to clear their lots in six years. The following is the order from the town records of Lynn :

“ At a towne meeting held February 24, 1656, It was voted that Nahant should be laid out in planting lotts, and every householder should have equal in the dividing of it, noe man more than another, and every person to clear of his wood in 6 years, and he or they that do not clear their lotts of the wood, shall pay 50 shillings for the towne's use.

Alsoe every householder is to have his and their lotts for 7 years, and it is to be laid downe for a pasture for the towne, and in the seventh year, every one that hath improved his lott by planting shall then, that is in the seventh year, sow their lott with English corne, and in every acre of land as they improve, they shall with their English corne, sow one bushel of hay seed, and soe proportionable to all the land that is improved, a bushell of hay seed to one acre of land, and it is to be remembered that no person is to raise any kind of building at all, and for laying out this land there is chosen Francis Ingals, Henry Collins, James Axe, Adam Hawkes, Lieut. Thomas Marshall, John Hathorne, Andrew Mansfield."

It is also said, in the early times, "*in this necke is store of good ground, fit for the Plow.*" It will be noticed here that Nahant is spoken of as a "necke" of land and not as a beach simply, from which with other testimony, it may be inferred, that what is now merely a ridge of land, with a wide and far spread sandy beach on one side, and a rocky beach on the other, was, *two hundred years ago*, an arm of the main land, covered with soil and trees and of much greater width than now. Besides, it is stated that the *stumps of trees* are yet to be seen on the beach itself, in the very spots where they grew at some remote period. Then there are the extensive marshes in Lynn, which undoubtedly have been formed by the wash of the waves, and it is more than probable that a large part of Nahant, particularly the "necke" mentioned in 1630, has been

washed from its original location and now forms the marshes alluded to.* It is established by living testimony that the Beach has materially changed within the last half century, "nearly half its breadth," and has become more curved than formerly. The sand and gravel, which has blown from the beach, has filled up in some degree a part of Lynn harbor. Lewis states that a rock, formerly in the harbor, around which the birds used to dive, is now entirely covered by the sand.

We have seen that Nahant was originally the resort of wolves and other wild beasts; next the resort of the savage,—who came here for food and amusement on the beaches; next it was formed into a pasture for the "cattle and swine" of the first settlers; afterwards it was improved for the catching and curing of fish and its lands appropriated with conditions relating to that use; it was used as a wood lot, to furnish fuel, not only to "Saugust," (Lynn, and all the vicinity,) but to Boston; it was sold for a suit of clothes, reclaimed and sold again for two old coats; was mortgaged for £10 to Mr. Davison; was again sold for two "pestle stones;" was afterwards lotted out to be cultivated, on certain conditions which we have mentioned; became the subject of long and tedious litigation among the early settlers;—and some *two hundred years* after

* In digging on the marshes of Lynn, to construct the Eastern Railroad, about five feet of the soil must be removed before coming to the original surface.

this, it became the frequent resort of pleasure parties from Boston and all the country round, affording no accommodations but its native roughness, and the roughness of its natives. The former is well known, and the latter is well remembered.— There were but three or four families of white people on Nahant at this time. It had then been robbed of its trees, and shorn of much of its beauty.— These families were very shy of visitors—they disliked the intrusion—would run affrighted when they saw them coming—and it was with great difficulty that anything in the nature of cooking utensil or food, could be obtained from them. They would shut their doors in the faces of strangers and escape to their back rooms or chambers for safety.

Visitors became so frequent, and applications for various little accommodations so common, that the necessary intercourse increased, and finally these very people began to make it an object to accommodate parties of pleasure, so far as they were able, and to charge them, as we have been told, most unconscionable prices for the smallest favors. This also naturally led to the opening of several houses for public entertainment, which are now standing in the village, some half mile from Holman's Hotel. From the time of which we have been speaking, to the present, Nahant has been the resort of companies of friends, families and parties, for the enjoyment of its salubrious air, sea-bathing and its excellent fish. In uncivilized and barbarous times, it was the resort of wild beasts, the roaming field and the pleasure ground of the savage; in after ages and

in more enlightened times, it is now the resort of the gay, the beautiful, the rich, the refined. The fair-haired and bright-eyed beauty of our own country, the stars and gems of female literature and loveliness from other climes, men of genius, learning, and fame—all now resort for recreation and enjoyment to the early pleasure ground and hunting field of the wild untutored savage!

LETTER VIII.

Disappointment on visiting Nahant—Looking out for the Sea-Serpent—Correct idea of Nahant; “a watering place,” toward the Ocean—Few trees and shrubbery, but not without cultivation—No foxes, wolves or bears now; but rocks, beaches, fish, scenery, air, minerals, specimens of natural history, &c.

WHEN persons visit Nahant for the first time and for a short time, it is seldom the case that they are not disappointed. They have very likely heard of Nahant—perhaps have heard much about it, and in many cases expect to see the sea serpent, or some other wonder, *of course*. We remember, on our first visit to Nahant, we looked for his snakeship all the way on the passage, and went incontinently to the piazza of the hotel, with glass in hand, about as much prepared to see him as though we had come

to witness an established exhibition. *Of course*, (and this was more probably a matter of course,) we did not see him—his majesty did not choose to be stared at as a show! He only shows himself, when it suits

himself to be seen. *En passant*, of the Sea Serpent: without much doubting the existence of such a creature as the Sea Serpent ourselves, we have reason to believe that something else is seen very often and reported to be the real serpent which is not the real serpent. The creature called a Sea Serpent may be frequently seen; but then other things or creatures, are also seen and also called the Sea Serpent; and this mistake often makes trouble and tends to bring discredit upon those who really have seen the Sea Serpent. Of late years at Nahant, everything uncommon, and sometimes even a ledge of rocks, which surely is not very uncommon here, is "cracked up to be" the Sea Serpent; and thus the credulous are imposed upon—the veracity of many intelligent and truth-speaking witnesses discredited, and an air of falsehood thrown over the whole story.

But people are liable to be disappointed in respect to Nahant, more in other matters even, than in relation to the existence and appearance of the Sea Serpent. Each person has most likely formed in his mind's eye, some idea of the place; and the chance is, that in most cases it will be erroneous.—The first correct idea—that Nahant is a "*watering place*,"—does not sufficiently impress them. *It is out in the ocean*; yet hundreds look for such things, and such scenery, and such recreations, as they

would be likely to find some 20 to 50 miles in the interior. They expect, at least, to find trees and shrubbery, and it may be woods and groves, but even in this they are to be mainly disappointed. Trees, woods and shrubbery, were once here, but so far from cultivating or endeavoring to preserve them were the early settlers, that they proposed *a fine if they were not all cut down in six years!*—The place was at that time,—more than two centuries ago,—thickly wooded, and the resort of wolves and foxes. But now, alas, there is not a single tree, unless some two or three ancient cedars have escaped the axe, of the original growth on the peninsula; and as to wolves and foxes, excepting in the deep fissures of the rocks, there is no place to hide their heads!

Still Nahant is not entirely without cultivation, and is yearly improving in this respect. There are now some very handsome gardens belonging to the inhabitants and to the summer cottages; and our friend Holman has some fifteen or twenty acres under a high state of cultivation. The “store of good land fit for the plow,” mentioned in history, is in a fair way to be cultivated and improved under *his* administration and by the force and success of *his* example. There are several fine fields of grain, and of the sugar-beet now in a very prosperous condition, looking and promising as well as any in the interior, besides abundance of garden vegetables and good mowing land; and these are much less liable to injury from early frost than in the country. The growing of trees, however, as we have already

mentioned, is somewhat less successful, it being almost impossible to preserve them through the winter storms. They are probably killed by the *salt-water spray*, blown over them, during the continuance of severe storms. In these storms the waves dash quite over the highest rocks around the shore. We have been informed that they are frequently seen to "o'ertop" the "Pulpit Rock;" and the *spray* is then blown by the wind over the land, even to overflow the piazzas of the hotel,—this it is, we suppose, that kills the young trees. There are, nevertheless, a few scattering trees that survive, in certain locations,—the little *Elm*, in front of the bath-house, and protected by it from the spray, lives on from year to year, and a few others in sheltered situations, seem as yet to survive the wintry blasts. It is very probable that trees of various kinds, will flourish here, as buildings multiply to break off the wind and afford them shelter.

We cannot flatter ourselves yet, however, that those who feel disappointed at not finding Nahant a *country place*, are very soon to be gratified in their expectations. Its "store of good ground" may be cultivated, but woods, groves, and orchards, it may not yet have. In truth, desirable as these may be, Nahant does not need them—they may better be sought for elsewhere. Nahant has its rocks, beaches, caves, fish, sea-air, ocean-scenery, its steam-boat, its bath-houses and its hotel,—and these are enough! These make it what it is—a healthful and delightful resort, and those who seek for such a place, where are constantly seen the sublimest exhibitions of nature, in the ocean-wave, the rock-bound island,

and in the glorious heavens,—need feel no disappointment on visiting Nahant. Characterised as Nahant is, by the majestic and sublime, it is still not deficient in some of the pleasing lesser works of nature: the wild flower in its fields, the minerals in its bosom, the shells on its shore, the birds on its marshes, and the fish in its waters,—afford infinite sources of study and gratification to the casual observer as to the lover of natural history.



Egg Rock is two miles east of Nahant in the midst of a broad expanse of water. It appears from the hotel to be a naked rock, but is said to contain about three acres of land. It belongs to the town of Salem, and has been used as a sheep pasture.* It is now seldom frequented, except by gulls and other sea birds. We saw some time since, a bolt of lightning strike on the summit of this rock, with a tremendous crash. It appeared to be, as it descended from the dense, black cloud, hanging over it, nearly as large as a man's body, and the concussion almost stunned persons who were witnessing the storm from the piazzas of the hotel.

* We rather doubt this statement.

LETTER IX.

Nahant the resort of savage and civilized life—Some further description of its topography—Vegetables for city consumption—Beaches—Preservation of Long Beach by a causeway—Action of Congress on the subject—Swallow's Cave, Pulpit Rock, Spouting Horn, Natural Bridge.

ONCE Nahant was the resort of the savage, and our readers have seen what kind of a resort it was to them. It is now the resort of the most refined of civilized life, and we have seen what kind of a resort it is for them. The Indian enjoyed it in all its natural beauty and freshness; we enjoy it, shorn of much of its original beauty, but unimpaired in its solid and sublime grandeur.

Those of our readers who have followed these pages thus far, if they have never visited Nahant, must have formed some idea of it; but it nevertheless, may be proper that we should attempt some further description. Nahant may be called an arm of land extending into the sea, or a "necke of land," as Mr. Wood called it. It extends over *three miles* from the shore of Lynn: passing over the Beach from Lynn, nearly a mile and three quarters, we come to Little Nahant, (an island, except the beach connections,) containing nearly 50

acres, and consisting of two principal elevations or hills; then passing over the lesser Beach, one half mile in length, similar to the previous, we come to the larger nebulæ, or island, called the Great Nahant. On this is the village, the cottages, the church, the hotels, landing, &c. A very considerable part of the lesser Nahant is under good cultivation, being covered with fields of "waving corn" and other productions of the farmer. On Great Nahant also the "store of good ground fit for the Plow" is much improved for farming purposes and for gardens.—

This year, (if before, we cannot say,) vegetables have been raised at Nahant for the use of private tables in Boston,—a thing hardly to have been thought of some years ago, although for several years Mr. Holman has raised some of the early vegetables used at the hotel.

Besides the two principal beaches, there are eight or nine shorter beaches around the two Nahants, and excepting these, the shore is entirely rock-bound, so that the "very aspect of the place is fortification enough to keepe off an unknowne enemy." To pass around the entire shore of the Nahants, the distance would probably be from eight to ten miles.

Nahant does not extend in a straight line from the shore of Lynn into the Ocean. The long beach runs in a curved line, and the short beach with Great Nahant somewhat resemble a *boot* in shape, having, to be sure, a rather large foot. The long beach is a great protection to the harbor of Lynn, and its preservation has been deemed so essential

that, in 1824, a causeway of planks, filled in with sand, was constructed, at the joint expense of the State and the town of Lynn, each appropriating the sum of \$1500. The subject of preserving this beach and harbor was introduced at the last session of Congress, (1838,) and an appropriation of \$30,000 determined upon, but lost among the mass of other unfinished business. It is proposed, when this appropriation shall be obtained, to construct a walled-road across the beach, and over this road it is further proposed to lay a branch railway, to connect with the road from Boston and Salem. These measures will probably be accomplished in a few years, when Nahant shall become fully appreciated as a place of residence and resort.

The SPOUTING HORN is another peculiar fissure in the rocks, on the eastern shore of Nahant, near Lindsey's Hill. The water is driven in by the waves through a deep channel, a hundred feet before it enters the Spouting Horn, and is then, (at about half tide,) forced into a cavernous tunnel about 30 feet, from whence the water is literally "spouted," and thus returns in froth and spray to meet the next wave. In a storm, it is a grand sight, and is at all times worth a visit. A path leads to it, and it is about half a mile from the hotel. The cliff of rocks in which it is formed, is about 50 feet above the sea, but the spectator may descend to the entrance of the tunnel.



[View of the Entrance to the Swallow's Cave.]

THE SWALLOW'S CAVE is a passage under a high cliff on the west side of Nahant, a few rods south of the steamboat wharf. It is easily accessible, is from 6 to 20 feet high, and from 10 to 14 feet in breadth; extending about 70 feet, opening to the water. It can only be entered at low tide, and the sea sometimes rushes into it with a great noise. The swallows have built their nests in the upper part of this cavern, on ledges or *notches* in the rocks. The walk or flooring is rather uneven, but may nevertheless be entered by ladies with perfect ease and safety at a suitable time of tide. Passing through this cave, you may ascend by climbing over the rocks, to the height above, without returning the way you descend to the opening.

The **PULPIT ROCK** is a great curiosity. It stands off the south end of Nahant, not far from the Swallow's Cave. It is an immense square block of rock, about 30 feet high, having a square open space at top, resembling in shape, an easy-chair, which is called the pulpit. It is difficult to reach the top by climbing, the sides are so perpendicular. In storms the waves dash over this rock with great force, the wind driving the spray like rain all around, for some distance.

The **NATURAL BRIDGE** is near the Pulpit Rock, and is a wedge of rocks, as it were, suspended like an arch, over a deep and broad fissure. It is not easy to cross the Bridge, as it is below the surrounding ground. The sea dashes in, by the pulpit rock, into the deep fissure under the bridge.

There are various other formations, possessing much interest, about the rocky shore and the high cliffs of Nahant, which the curious observer will readily discover. On the Little Nahant (nearest Lynn,) is the Grotto, Wolf's Cavern, Fox Cavern, &c. On the Great Nahant, there are also, the Dashing Rock, Iron Mine, &c.

The Indians used the Long Beach as their play ground, for running, leaping, shooting, dancing, foot-ball, &c.

The harbors and coves about Nahant were famous for ducks, so that persons have killed "50 Duckes at a shot." Sportsmen frequent Nahant now for the same game, in the winter season, but seldom do so well as the above.

LETTER X.

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA—[To be completed, as materials and leisure may afford opportunity.]

In 1633, Thomas Dexter, (the purchaser of Nahant,) was ordered to be "set in the bilbowes, disfranchised and fined X^s. for *speaking* reproachful and seditious *words* against the government here established."

The same year, the poor Indian, Black William, (who sold Nahant to farmer Dexter,) was hung at Richman's Island, Scarborough, Me., "in revenge for the murder of Walter Bagnall, who was killed by the Indians on the 3d of October, 1631." It does not appear that Black William had any part in the murder, and if he had, Gov. Winthrop says that Bagnall was "a wicked fellow and had much wronged the Indians."

In 1634, on training-day, by direction of Mr. Humphrey, Capt. Turner, went with his company to Nahant, to hunt the wolves by which it was infested.

In 1635, Jan. 11, it was "voted by the freeman of the towne, that these men underwritten shall have liberty to plant and build at Nahant, and shall possess each man land for the said purpose, and proceeding in the trade of fishing. Mr. Humfreys, Daniel How, Mr Ballard, Joseph Redknapp, Fran-

is Dent, Timothy Tomlins, Richard Walker, Thomas Talmage, Henry Perkes."

Jan. 18, "It is ordered by the freemen of the towne, that all such persons as are assigned any land at Nahant, to further the trade of making fish, that if they do not proceed accordingly to forward the said trade, but either doe grow remiss, or else give it quite over, that then all such lotts shall be forfeited againe to the towne, to dispose of as shall be thought fit."

1637, on the 15th November, the name of the town was changed from Saugus to Lynn. The Court record is, "Saugus is called Lin."

1638, on 13th March, "Lynn was granted 6 miles into the country; and Mr Hawthorne and Leift Davenport to view and interin how the land beyond lyeth, whether it be fit for another plantation or no." From this sprung Lynnfield.

In 1646, Thomas Dexier was presented at the Quarterly sessions in August, for a common sleeper in meetings for public worship, and fined.

1652. Winnepurkitt, on the 1st of April, mortgaged "all that tract of land commonly called Nahant," to Nicholas Davison of Charlestown, "for twenty pounds sterling dew many ycer."

In 1660, three acres of land at Nahant, a part of Edward Helyoke's estate, were sold for £8. Two oxen were sold at the same time, for £12.

1668. 13th June, Robert Paige of Boston, was presented, "for settinge saille from Nahant, in his boate, being Laden with wood, there by Profainning the Lord's daye."

Christopher Lindsey, (whose name is preserved in Lindsey's Hill,) died this year. He lived on Nahant.

1678. James Mills lived on Nahant, one of the first inhabitants. Rice's tavern now stands on the spot where he lived. He was a shepherd and had seven children. Dorothy's Cove, was so named after one of his daughters, who used to bathe there very frequently.

In 1689, Sir Edmund Andros, then Governor of Massachusetts, assumed the ownership of Nahant with the intention of bestowing it on Edward Randolph, his Secretary, as a reward for his services.— This caused more trouble to the people of the plantation. Randolph petitioned Andros for the gift.

In remonstrating against this proceeding, the town state, that they have possessed and improved Nahant, "well onward to sixty years;" that they have "paid their monies by way of purchase" for it, and that it is the only secure place they have "for the grazing of *some thousands* of sheep."

There is a ledge of rocks on the northern shore of Nahant, once thought to be valuable, as an Iron Mine. In 1691, the town voted, that "Mr. Hubbard of Braintree, should give three shillings for every ton of Rock Mine, that he has from Nahant, to the town, for the town's use, and he to have so much as the town sees convenient." We suspect he did not use much of it.

In 1695, the Nahant was claimed by Mrs. Mary Daffern and Mrs. Martha Padishall, widows and heiresses of Richard Woodey, Jr. then late of Bos-

ton, deceased. They were defaulted by the Court. Their claim was founded on Dexter's purchase.

In 1698, this year James Mills killed five foxes on Nahant.

The town ordered that no person should cut more than seven trees on Nahant, under a penalty of forty shillings for each tree exceeding that number.

In 1701, 6th March, the town took measures to prevent the cutting down of trees, &c. at Nahant. "Being informed that several persons had cut down several trees or bushes in Nahant, *whereby there is likely to be no shade for the creatures,*" voted, that no person thereafter should cut any tree or bush there, under penalty of ten shillings.

In 1706, at Lynn, the lands held "in common," including Nahant and excepting only the training-field, were divided among the freeholders. Nahant was laid out in ranges, and in small lots of from 20 poles to five acres.

In the great snow storm of 1717, a great number of Deer came from the woods for food, and some fled to Nahant, and being chased *by the wolves*, leaped into the sea, and were drowned.

1722. Between 1698 and 1722, there were killed in Lynn woods and on Nahant, 428 foxes, for which the town paid 2s each.

1749. An extremely hot and dry summer. Immense multitudes of grasshoppers appeared. They were so numerous at Nahant that the inhabitants walked together with bushes in their hands, and drove them by thousands, into the sea. Hay was scarce and imported from England.

Before the year 1800, there were only three dwelling houses at Nahant, viz. the houses of Jonathan Johnson, Nehemiah Breed, and Abner Hood. The frame of the first named house, built about 120 yrs. ago, is now in the house of Caleb Johnson.

In 1803, Aug. 28, a hotel on the western part of Nahant, was burnt—the only house ever burnt there. It was owned by Capt. Joseph Johnson, and was soon after rebuilt.

In 1809, Sept. 20, a flock of sheep on Nahant was struck by lightning, and 18 killed.

In 1817, the first of the new cottages was built by Hon. Thos. H. Perkins, near the Spouting Horn.

The SEA SERPENT is said first to have been seen this year, at Gloucester, Cape Ann.

In 1818, a neat stone building was erected for a school house and library, in which divine service was occasionally performed. An elegant folio Prayer Book, once the property of Geo. IV. of England, was presented to this library by the lady of Governor Gore. Several hundred volumes were received as donations, from Boston and other places.

This year a committee of five persons from different towns was appointed to settle the long existing difficulties between the proprietors of Nahant lots and the people of Lynn, relative to the right to take sea weed, sand, stone, drift wood, &c. from the coves and beaches of Nahant. The Committee, however, did not decide upon the matter.

In 1820, June, the steam boat Eagle run between Hingham and Boston, and Boston and Nahant, leaving Hingham at 6 A.M.; Boston at 9; Nahant at 3 1-2 P.M. and Boston for Hingham again, at 5.

The Hotel was built this year, by Hon. Thomas H. Perkins, Dr Edw. H. Robbins, and others.

In July, the Sea Serpent was again seen. On 5th Aug. it was seen off Phillips's Point, about a quarter of a mile distant—sea calm. J. B. Lewis, Andrew Reynolds and Benj. King, went out in a boat after him, and got within 30 yards of him. One of them counted 23 bunches on his back; head black, resembling common serpents, two feet above the water, and about the size of a common fire bucket. Was seen again the next day.

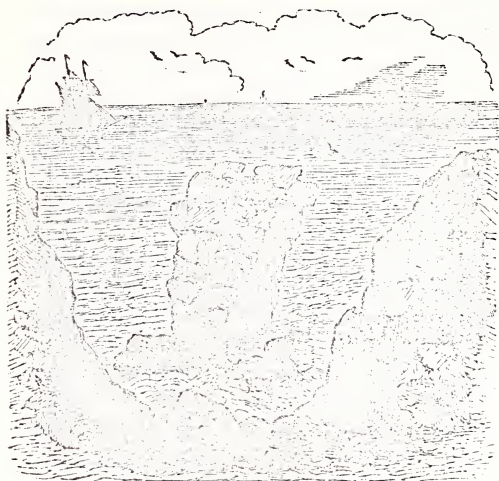
About 1st Aug. four uncommon Bass, (formerly very plenty here,) were caught with the hook from the rocks, weighing respectively, fifty-seven, forty-six, thirty-nine and twenty-two pounds.—The same month, a basking Shark, *Selache Mazinus*, was taken near Phillips's Point, supposed at first to have been the Sea Serpent.

In 1822, June, the steam boat Eagle, Capt Wood, left Boston at 9 A. M. and arrived at Nahant at 11—returning again at 7 1-2 P. M. — On the 4th of July, there was an exhibition of fireworks at Nahant—Rouillard kept the hotel.

In July, the Eagle made two trips each day. — In Aug. (26th,) she carried the Board of Health to Rainsford's Island, and the advertisement says, "will probably take on board a Band of Music at Port Independence"—a practice since become common.

1832. A new and beautiful church was built this year, by funds furnished chiefly by the liberal subscriptions of the summer residents.

PULPIT ROCK. Page 44.



The above engraving gives the reader a very correct idea of the appearance, proportions and height of the Pulpit Rock, mentioned on page 44. The point of observation is on a cliff of rocks, a little westerly of it. Its location is on the extreme southerly end of Nahant, only a minute's walk from the hotel.—It is well worth a visit. The Natural Bridge may be seen at the same time, just inside of it.

There are now but two public houses on Nahant, —the Nahant House, (a large and commodious cottage building, near the landing,) formerly kept by Mr Albert Whitney and others, having been converted into a private residence.

The NAHANT HOTEL, kept for some years past by Mr Holman, is the principal establishment. This we have already spoken of, as an elegant and fashionable resort, affording such accommodations as to make it a very desirable residence, to families, parties, strangers and others, during the warm season.

RICE'S HOTEL, is an old established public house, delightfully situated in the village, in the most rural neighborhood of Nahant, 1-4 of a mile from the steam boat wharf. There are a number of large willow and balm of gilead trees around the house, and a fine large green field and ranges of willow trees in the rear. This hotel has been kept by Mr Jesse Rice, for *twenty years*; has always sustained a good reputation among visitors, and has always been well supported by the public.

LETTERS

FROM

THE AMERICAN
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIVE

AND

MISCELLANEOUS.



NEW YORK:

JOHN W. PETERSON, 112 N. 3RD ST.

1888

LETTERS FROM NAHANT,

HISTORICAL,

DESCRIPTIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Press of the Bunker-Hill Aurora.
1842.

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NOTE.

IN publishing these hastily-written Letters in this form the writer's only object is to aid in making Nahant, its desirableness as a healthful summer-residence, and as a quiet and delightful watering-place, more generally known,—especially among travellers and tourists from various sections of our country. He claims but little credit on the score of originality,—the labor having been in a great degree, that of compilation; and if their present publication shall do anything in extending the knowledge or adding to the interest of Nahant, or afford to its residents and visitors, entertainment for a leisure hour, all the writer's ends will be accomplished.

~~Y. S. S. S. S.~~

2840

LETTER I.

The Hotel—Company—first land speculator—peculiar interest in the history of Nahant—Military hunting wolves—progress of civilization and refinement.

NAHANT HOTEL, of which Mr PHINEAS DREW has become the proprietor, is the great headquarters of fashion, gaiety and enjoyment for the elite of Boston, during the warm season. The company of course, is very large; yet they are provided with everything desirable, and there is no reason why they should not enjoy themselves. Notes pass occasionally, and the sweetest notes from the piano and the human voice are often to be heard; but notes to pay are seldom thought of. When people come here they generally leave business affairs behind them, and forget so far as they may, the trials and perplexities incident to business-life. Nahant is the place for relaxation, where one wants to pass a few weeks of unvexed leisure; where he may, by the aid of the sea-air, the bath and other virtues of the place, invigorate his whole system, and at the same time, enjoy unalloyed with harrassing cares, the delights of social intercourse.

"*The Nahant*," as it was originally called, belonged to the Indians for many years after the

settlement of the English at Lynn, Salem and the vicinity. Its name is said by some to signify an island. It was purchased of the Indians by Farmer Dexter,—who was the first land-speculator in this country, so far as I have read,—in 1630, for a suit of clothes. It was afterwards again sold for “two pestle stones.” At this time, it was thickly wooded, and was chiefly used by the inhabitants of Lynn, Salem, &c. for pasturing their cattle, for this, at that time, very satisfactory reason, viz. as it is a peninsula, surrounded by water excepting the narrow beach which connects it with the town of Lynn, a fence across the head of this beach, in the quaint language of the times, “keepes out the wolives and keepes in the cattell.”

There is much matter of very peculiar interest in the history of this little peninsula, not only in the times of the Indians, but in after times, since it became the resort of the English. It was for many years a source of litigation, between the town of Lynn and Farmer Dexter and others, and in the end, if I recollect rightly, it was held by the town. It has been lotted off once or twice, and on one occasion, the wolves became so numerous there, that the train-band, the militia of that day, (1634,) were marched to it in a body, to hunt wolves! Capital military exercise and discipline, and duty! Some of our soldiers of the present day, we opine, would enjoy a taste of such service. But the wolves have all disappeared from Nahant—the Indians too, are all gone—the trees have been cut down;

a new race of animals, a new growth of trees, a new class of people, have now come on the soil, and Nahant is no longer what it was in history. From the rudest spot of a rude people, it has become the resort of the most fashionable of the fashion,—from barbarism it has risen through the grade of civilization, to refinement and luxury,—and is now one of the most delightful resorts in the world. Its broad and extensive beaches, its rugged, rock-bound shores, its natural curiosities, as the PULPIT ROCK, Spouting-Horn, Swallow's Cave, all have their attractions. So also, have the fishing, gunning, bathing, riding, and other amusements of the place. These things are all to be seen or enjoyed, and the idea of going to Nahant and returning without seeing or enjoying any of them, is perfectly absurd, or as we sometimes say, "*it is not a proceeding.*"

To see Nahant, requires time; to enjoy it requires still more. It is a place above all other places to see by day and enjoy by night. Hot as it is in the city, here you may ride, bathe, or fish during the day, and be sure of a good, cool, comfortable night's sleep afterwards.

The name and fame of Nahant have been rehearsed and sung by proser and poet, and its rocks and beaches have been the theme of the historian and the subject of the painter,—and yet the half has never been said, sung or painted. I do not suppose, however, that I shall be able to furnish anything *very* original, in what I may have to offer. I shall give such facts as I

may be able to gather in relation to its history, its early appearances and uses, natural history and curiosities, and shall rely on others to furnish most of the material, raw or manufactured, just as I can find it to suit my purpose.

LETTER II.

Nahanta—Nahanton—the Sachem Montowampate—
Visit to England—Death—Small pox among the Indians—benevolence of Samuel Maverick—Winnepurkitt arrives to the succession of his brother, aged 13 years—Marries Joane, of Nahant—their children—Winnepurkitt goes to Barbadoes—Is the last of the Sagamores—Aberginians and their Sachem—"Squaw Sachem."

NAHANTA was the wife of an Indian Chief, and according to tradition, the *saunka* or queen of Montowampate. Nahanton was a cousin of the chief, and was born (on Nahant?) in 1606.

Montowampate was the Sachem of the Sauagus Indians and lived on Sagamore Hill, a high bluff rock, near the head of Long Beach in Lynn. He had the jurisdiction of Lynn and Marblehead. It is related of Montowampate that, having been defrauded of twenty beaver skins

by a man in England named Watts he went to Governor Winthrop, on the 26th March, 1631, to solicit his assistance in recovering their value. The Governor entertained him kindly, and gave him a letter to Emanuel Downing, Esq. of London. Tradition asserts that he went to England, where he was received with much respect and obtained remuneration for his fur; but disliking the English delicacies, he hastened back to Saugus, to the "enjoyment of his clams and succatash." This Sachem, who was called also James Sagamore, died in December 1633, of the small pox. Gov Winthrop gives the following interesting account of his death, and of the ravages of that horrible disease, among the natives:

"[1633, December 5.] John Sagamore died of the small pox, and almost all his people; (above thirty buried by Mr Maverick of Winesemett in one day.) The towns in the bay took away many of the children; but most of them died soon after.

"James Sagamore of Sagus, died also, and most of his folks. John Sagamore desired to be brought among the English, (so he was;) and promised (if he recovered) to live with the English and serve their God. He left one son, which he disposed to Mr Wilson, the pastor of Boston; to be brought up by him. He gave to the governor a good quantity of wampompeague, and to divers others of the English he gave gifts; and took order for the payment of his own debts and his men's. He died in a persuasion that he should go to the Englishmen's God. Divers of

them, in their sickness, confessed that the Englishmen's God was a good God; and that, if they recovered, they would serve him.

"It wrought much with them, that when their own people forsook them, yet the English came daily and ministered to them; and yet few, only two families, took any infection by it. Among others, Mr Maverick of Winesemett, is worthy of a perpetual remembrance. Himself, his wife and servants, went daily to them, ministered to their necessities, and buried their dead, and took home many of their children. So did other of their neighbors."

Montowampate, (or James Sagamore,) was succeeded in his government, by his brother Winnepurkitt, at the age of 13 years, and this chief,—it may be interesting to remark here,—*married his wife from Nahant*. Winnepurkitt, otherwise called George Rumney Marsh, was born at Medford, probably in the year 1620, and resided there with his father until called to the vacant Sachemship of his brother, in 1633. Concerning his wife and her family, Lewis has gathered the following:

"Poquannum, or Dark Skin, lived on Nahant. He had two children. 1. Queakussen, born in 1611, and generally known by the familiar appellation of "Captain Tom." He removed to Mistick, and afterwards to Patucket. Mr Gookin, in a deposition, 1686, says he is "an Indian of good repute, and professes the Christian religion." 2. Ahawayetsquaine, called Joane, who married Winnepurkitt."

Winnepurkitt, (as I much prefer to speak of these native children of the forest by their Indian names,) was the proprietor of Deer Island in Boston harbor. He had three daughters, viz: Petagunsk, called Cicely; Wuttaquattinusk, or the Little Walnut, called Sarah; Petagoonaquah, called Susannah. In the latter part of his life he went to Barbadoes. It was supposed he was carried there with the prisoners who were sold for slaves at the end of Phillips war. He was also the proprietor of the tract of land on which Marblehead was built, which was sold to that town, after his death, by his heirs; and he seems to have had a claim to Nahant, as he gave Mr Nicholas Davison of Charlestown, in April 1652, a mortgage of "all that tract or neck of land, called, Nahant," for "twenty pounds sterling dew many yeer."

Winnepurkitt was the last of the Lynn Sagamores! He died in 1684, soon after his return from Barbadoes; and his wife,—the first wooed and probably the first wedded of the native children of Nahant,—died the following year.

The Saugus or Lynn Indians belonged to the great nation called Aberginians, extending from Charles River to the Merrimack, governed by a powerful Sachem, called Nanepashemet or the New Moon. The Sagamores Wonohaquaham, (John Sagamore of Winesemett,); Montowampate, (James Sagamore of Lynn,); and Winnepurkitt, the last of the Sagamores, were the sons of the "New Moon," who had a daughter also, called Abigail. Whether Masconomond, the

Sagamore of Agawam, (now Ipswich,) was of the same family, I have not ascertained. Nanepashemet lived at Medford, and was killed about the year 1619. The government was continued by his queen, called "Squaw Sachem," to whom most of the tribes in Massachusetts were subject. In 1635, she had a second husband, whose name was Wappacowet.

So much have I thought it might be interesting to say relative to the history of these Indians, who had so much to do with Nahant, at this early period of our history.

LETTER III.

Ownership of Nahant—"Black William" the original proprietor—he sold it to Thomas Dexter for a suit of clothes—Dexter's lawsuit with the plantation for Nahant—Depositions and historical information—Nahant used for pasturing Cattle, and again sold for "two pestle stones."

As regards the original ownership of Nahant, it appears to be evident, that in 1629, it belonged to an Indian Chief, who was called by the English, Duke William or Black Will. His father was a Sachem, lived at Swampscot, and died be-

fore the English arrived. Black William was killed by some of the white people, in 1633.

In 1630, Black William sold Nahant to Thomas Dexter. Dexter lived on the western bank of Saugus river, was an active and enterprising man. He built a mill and a wear across Saugus river; owned eight hundred acres of land, and by way of excellence was called Farmer Dexter. Among his other speculations, he purchased Nahant of Black William for a *suit of clothes*. This purchase gave rise to an expensive lawsuit between Farmer Dexter and the town, in 1657, the following account of which is taken from Lewis, who quotes from the files of the Quarterly Court:

"Mr Thomas Dexter, who claimed Nahant as a purchase from Black William, commenced an action at the Quarterly Court, on the 3d of June, against the town, for occupying it. The case was defended by Thomas Lighton, George Keysar, Robert Coats, and Joseph Armitage in behalf of the town. The following depositions were given:

1. "Edward Ireson, aged 57 yeares or thereabouts, sworne, saith, that liveing with Mr Thomas Dexter, I carried the fencing stuff, which master Dexter sett up to fence in Nahant his part with the rest of the Inhabitants, and being and living with mr Dexter, I never heard him say a word of his buying Nahant, but only his interest in Nahant for his fencing with the rest of the inhabitants, this was about 25 years since, and after this fence was set up at na-

hant, all the new comers were to give two shillings sixpence a head or a piece vnto the setters up of the fence or inhabitants, and some of Salem brought Cattell alsoe to nahant, which were to give soc."

2. "The Testimony of Samuel Whiting senr: of ye Towne of Linne, Saith, that Mr Humphries did desire that mr Eaton and his company might not only buy Nahant, but the whole Towne of Lynne, and that mr Cobbet and he and others of the towne went to mr Eaton to offer both to him, and to commit themselves to the providence of God, and at that time farmer Dexter lived in the towne of Linne." The Mr Eaton here mentioned, was Theophilus Eaton, afterwards Governor of Connecticut.

3. "The Dep. of Daniel Salmon, aged about 45 yeares, saith that he being master Humphreye's servant, and about 23 years agon, there being wolves in nahant, commanded that the whole traine band to goe drive them out, because it did belong to the whole towne, and farmer Dexter's men being then at training went with the rest.

4. "This I Joseph Armitage, aged 57 or thereabouts; doe testifie, that about fifteen or sixteen yeares agoe, wee had a generall towne meeting in Lin, at that meeting there was much discourse about nahant was theires, myself by purchase haveing a part therein, after much agitation in the meeting, and by persuasion of mr Cobbitt, they that then did plead a right by fencing, did yield up all their right freely to the

Inhabitants of the 'Towns, of which Thomas Dexter senr was one."

5. "We, Geo. Sagamore and the Sagamore of Agawam, doe testify that Duke William so called did sell all Nahant unto farmer Dexter for a suite of cloathes, which cloathes farmer Dexter had again, and gave vnto Duke William so called 2 or 3 coates for it again.' This deposition was signed with an S. as the mark of Masconomond and the bow and arrow, as the mark of Winnepurkitt.

"Other depositions were given by Richard Walker, Edward Holyoke, George Farr, Christopher Lindsey, William Dixey, William Witter, John Ramsdell, John Hedge, William Harcher, and John Legg. The Court decided in favor of the defendants; and Mr Dexter appealed to the Court of Assistants."

The two following paragraphs, also from Lewis, afford some further information concerning Nahant, and the use which was made of it. William Dixey came over as a servant of Mr Isaac Johnson, and was admitted a freeman in 1634.

On his arrival, application was made by his master, for him and others, "for a place to sitt downe in; upon which," he says, "mr Endecott did give me and the rest leave to goe where wee would; upon which I went to Saugust, now Linne, and there we met with Sagamore James and som other indians, whoe did give me and the rest leau to dwell there or thereabouts; where-

upon I and the rest of my master's company did cut grass for cattell, and kept them upon nahant for som space of time; for the Indian James Sagamore and the rest did give me and the rest, in behalf of my master Johnson, what land we would; whereupon wee sett down in Saugust, and had quiet possession of it by the above said Indians, and kept our cattell in nahant the summer following."

1680. "William Witter was a farmer, and resided at Swampscot. He says, "Blacke will, or duke william, so called, came to my house (which was two or three miles from Nahant) when Thomas Dexter had bought Nahant for a suit of clothes, the said Black will Asked me what I would give him for the Land my house stood vpon, it being his land, and his ffather's wigwame stood their abouts, James Sagamore, being a youth was present, all of them acknowledging Black will to be the right owner of the Land my house stood on, and Sagamore Hill and Nahant was all his;" and adds "that he bought Nahant and Sagomer Hill and Swamscote of Black William for two pestle stones."

It would appear from the first of the above quotations that Sagamore James, (Montowampate,) exercised the authority of his government in disposing of Nahant, or at least of the use of it, while from the second paragraph, according to Witter, he allowed that it belonged to Black William. Winnepurkitt, his successor, also attempted to dispose of it, as appears by the mortgage already mentioned. But this last sale of

Nahant, including Sagamore Hill, (where the reigning monarchs appear to have resided,) and Swampscot, "for two pestle stones," is cheap beyond all account.

LETTER IV.

Use made of Nahant—Swine let loose in the woods—
Description of Nahant in 1633, written by William
Wood—Very full and complete—Remarks.

I GAVE you in my last some very interesting particulars relative to the History of Nahant and its ownership. The facts stated in the extracts then communicated, were mostly new to me, or if I had seen them in print before, it was in such connection with other matter as to escape my particular attention. It was clear, it seemed to me by the depositions from the files of the Court, that Duke William really sold Nahant to Farmer Dexter; but it does not appear that he ever obtained possession of his purchase. From the very first, it was used as a pasture, common to the plantation, although infested by wolves, bears and other wild beasts. Even from Salem the settlers brought their cattle to Nahant in the summer; and in the autumn, the *swine* were

"let loose in the woods that they might fatten themselves on nuts and acorns." At this time, it would hardly be credited that a nut or acorn ever grew at Nahant.

The following full, graphic and particular *description of Nahant*, is taken from "Nevv England's Prospeet," written in 1633, by William Wood, which work was undertaken, according to his account, "because there hath been many scandalous and false reports passed upon the Country, even from the sulphurous breath of every base ballad monger."

"The next plantation is Saugus, sixe miles Northeast from Winnesimet. This Towne is pleasant for situation, seated at the bottom of a Bay, which is made on the one side with the surrounding shore, and on the other side with a long sandy Beach. This sandy beach is two miles long, at the end whereof is a necke of land called Nahant. It is sixe miles in cureumference, well wooded with Oakes, Pines, and Cedars. It is beside well watered, having, beside the fresh Springs, a great Pond in the Middle, before which is a spacious Marsh. In this necke is a store of good ground, fit for the Plow; but for the present it is onely used to put young Cattle in, and weather goates, and Swine, to secure them from the Woolues; a few posts and rayles, from the low water markes to the shore, keepes out the Woolves, and keepes in the Cattle. One Black William, an Indian Duke, out of his generosity, gave this place in

generall to this plantation of Saugus, so that no other can appropriate it to himselfe.

‘Vpon the South side of the sandy Beach the Sea beateth which is a true prognostication to presage stormes and foule weather, and the breaking up of the Frost. For when a storme hath beene; or is likely to be, it will roare like Thunder, being hearde sixe miles; and after stormes casts up great stores of great Clammes, which the Indians, taking out of their shels, carry home in baskets. On the North side of this Bay is two great Marshes, which are made two by a pleasant River runnes between them. Northward up this river goes great store of Alewives, of which they make good Red Herrings; insomuch that they have been at charges to make them a wayre, and Herring house, to dry these Herrings in; the last yeare were dried some 4 or 5 Last, [about 150 barrels] for an experiment, which proved very good; this is like to prove a great enrichment to the land, (being a staple commoditie in other Countries,) for there be such innumerable companies in every river, that I have seen ten thousand taken in two houres, by two men, without any weire at all, saving a few stones to stone their passage up the river. There likewise come store of Basse, which the Indians and English catch with hooke and line, some fifty or three score at a tide. At the mouth of this river runnes up a great creeke into that great Marsh, which is called Rumny Marsh, which is 4 miles broad, halfe of it being Marsh ground, and halfe upland grasse, without

tree or bush; this Marsh is crossed with divers creekes, wherein lye great store of Geese and Duckes. There be convenient ponds for the planting of Ducke coyes. Here is likewise belonging to this place divers fresh meddowes, which afford good grasse; and four spacious ponds, like little lakes, wherein is store of fresh fish, within a mile of the towne; out of which runnes a curious fresh brooke, that is seldom frozen by reason of the warmenesse of the water; upon this stream is built a water Milne, and up this river come Smelts, and frost fish, much bigger than a Gudgeon. For wood there is no want, there being store of good Oakes, Wall-nut, Cedar, Aspe, Elme. The ground is very good, in many places without trees, and fit for the Plough. In this place is more English tillage, than in all New-England, and Virginia besides; which proved as well as could be expected; the corn being very good, especially the Barly, Rye, and Oates.

“The land affordeth to the inhabitants as many varieties as any one else, and the sea more; the Basse continuing from the middle of April to Michaelas, [29th Sept.] which stayes not half that time in the Bay, [Boston Harbour]; besides, here is a great deal of Rock cod and Macrill, insomuch that shoales of Basse have driven up shoales of Macrill, from one end of the sandie beach to the other; which the inhabitants have gathered up in wheelbarrowes. The Bay which lyeth before the Towne, at a low spring tyde will be all flatts for two miles to-

gether; upon which is great store of Muscle banckes, and clam bancks, and Lobsters among the rockes and grassie holes. These flatts make it unnavigable for shippes; yet at high water, great Boates, Loiters, and Pinnaces of 20 or 30 tun, may saile up to the plantation; but they neede have a skillfull Pilote, because of many dangerous rockes and foaming breakers, that lye at the mouth of that Bay. The very aspect of the place is fortification enough to keep off an unknowneemie; yet it may be fortified at little charge, being but few landing places thereabout, and those obscure."

This description of Nahant is peculiar, and like all the productions of that early period, is quaint and minute, embracing almost every mentionable thing about Nahant. To all who are acquainted with the portion of country described, from Chelsea to Salem, it will appear not a little remarkable that so full and complete an idea of the country, its character, soil, appearances, uses, productions, rivers, creeks, ponds, marshes, harbor, fish, the manner of taking them, &c. &c. could have been given in so few words. Nothing seems to have escaped the observation of Mr Wood, as nothing can exceed the graphic and sometimes beautiful language, which he has employed. How truly he says, of the rocky headland of Nahant, "the very aspect of the place is fortification enough to keepe off an unknowneemie; yet it may be fortified at little charge, being but few landing places thereabout, and those obscure."

LETTER V.

Nahant not fully appreciated—Sun rise at Nahant—
Morning walk—Taste for Scientific pursuits—Taste
for something—Long Beach.

I HAVE long been of the opinion that this delightful and salubrious summer retreat, is not properly appreciated, highly as it is estimated by the thousands who annually visit it. But a transient visit,—while the steam boat stops at the landing,—cannot afford a correct or adequate idea of Nahant, its beauties, wonders or luxuries. It requires a week, or perhaps a whole season, to see Nahant as it should be seen to be fully appreciated,—not a week of fine weather, for better is it by far that it should be *interspersed* with a storm or two. Nahant needs to be seen under all its aspects,—under the darkening cloud, amidst the roaring ocean, whitened by the foaming billows, and illuminated by the flashing lightning; as well in the broad sunshine of noon, when the blue and beautiful ocean is spread out to the eye, until sky and sea forms a common line, as in the evening, when the breathing south wind comes softly over the water and cools the feverish temple with its balmy air.

Much has been said of the indescribable mag-

nificence of a Sun-Rising at sea, and it certainly is a display of splendor and of gorgeous light only to be equalled by a sun rising at Nahant, which is very much the same thing. The sun is beheld emerging from the limitless surface of the ocean, reeking as it were, in all his glory, while the sky presents a far spreading canopy of gold. The scattered sails on the ever-heaving bosom of the sea, are gilded with the glorious light, and the market-fishermen, as the day advances, are seen in the *dorys*, like flies on the wave. But it is not the sun only, in all the glory of his rising, which is pleasant and grateful to the early riser at Nahant: in the midst of the ocean, the air is pure and invigorating, and all around is the silent grandeur and vast magnificence of nature's works. The swelling sea, with scarcely a breeze-ripple on its bosom, dashes against the rugged shore and rolls its white foam over the cliffs and in the deep crannies of the rocks.

A morning walk at Nahant, is one of the most exhilarating and healthful pleasures of the place, whether it be in the gravelled walks, on the "sandie beach," or bounding over the craggy rocks,—there is everywhere enough to engage the attention, whether it be directed to botany, conchology, mineralogy, *fishology*, or mere curious observation. No one need to have his time hang heavily about him, whether he has a taste for scientific pursuits or for the enjoyment of natural scenery,—for the most sluggish can enjoy his bed in the warmest nights or hottest mornings, and such at least are sure to have

a taste for a good breakfast, in the expectancy of which, at Drew's, he will not be disappointed.

Nevertheless, it is absolutely necessary that the visiter at Nahant should have a taste for *something*,—it hardly matters what it is for, but taste of some sort he must have. If it be a taste for reading, cool and airy retreats are easily found; if for pleasant scenes and natural grandeur, these are open before him; if for science, in things of the air, earth or sea, he may enjoy and cultivate it; if for pedestrian or equestrian exploits, he may enjoy it; if for fashion and foppery, he can show himself as he pleases and find plenty of observers; or if for bathing, or shooting, he may swim, fish or shoot to his heart's content. In addition to all this there are other amusements, common to similar resorts, in which ladies, gentlemen and children can indulge in various parts of the day.

The mid-day at Nahant, including the hours immediately preceding and succeeding the hour of dining, is generally embraced for a ride to the Long Beach,—one of the most delightful drives in the world. Ladies and gentlemen set off from the Hotel in carriages, barouches, chaises, on horseback, in parties, to enjoy a ride over this remarkable beach.

It has always seemed to me that neither pen nor pencil, nor both combined under the most favorable circumstances, could give any truly adequate idea of NAHANT BEACH, and the ceaseless ocean-wave which rolls over its smoothened surface. It is an exhibition of natural beauty

and grandeur, neither to be described nor painted. It is beyond the poet's as the painter's art—it is too sublime, too vast, too overwhelming for the power of language. Words,—mere words,—are not large enough! The sublime immensity of a single wave—as it comes rolling on in its changing colors and overhanging fullness, and its crest of glittering diamonds, which spreads in bursting bubbles at your feet,—not only exhausts but exceeds all language. The broad and far extending Beach, with its almost rockless and unruffled surface;—a deadened mirror of evenness and beauty,—a ball room, as it were, vast enough for all the sea-nymphs of the great Atlantic to celebrate their gala days,—is not to be put in mere words, cannot be described except in living characters equivalent to its own immensity. It is a whole language,—even more, an eternity in itself,—and can no more be written than the blue arch of heaven. Nor can it be described in parts—there is no power, no method, by which to convey to another, as a whole or in portions, an adequate idea of its sublime grandeur. It fills the mind too full for the power of language; thought itself is checked: expression fails wholly, and we are either absorbed in admiration and wonder, or aim to unchain the mind from its enchantment by the force of some careless remark. It is like the *Ocean*—who can describe or paint the *Ocean*? If it were *still* and motionless, who can describe its magnificent vastness or paint its glorious depths? Its eternal upheaving-bosom, its

limitless immensity, its crested waves kissing the air in bursting chrystals,—who can convey these to the unresent mind in language? Who can picture, in words or colors, as it is, a single wave in its moving life? Why then talk of putting into words—characters more diminutive than its gentlest ripple—the Ocean itself, in contact with its almost equal wonder, the far-spread Beach of Nahant?

LETTER VI.

Nahant beginning to be appreciated—Erection of the hotel in 1820—Its architecture &c.—Addition to the hotel building—Its architectural deformity balanced by its conveniency—Employment of time—Breakfast, Dinner, Tea—Evening amusements—Fashion the life of Love—Evening walk—Cool sleep.

ALTHOUGH Nahant has been a public resort for many years past, it is, we may almost say, *beginning* to be appreciated. It has gradually grown into favor and is more appreciated as it is more visited.—It wears well and improves upon acquaintance. It is now over twenty years since the erection of the Hotel, which took place in 1820, and from that time Nahant has grown to

be one of the most celebrated "watering places" in the country. This Hotel is on the most southerly or southeasterly point of Nahant,—the ocean head-land,—and is built of native stone, taken from the immediate vicinity of its location. The interior arrangements and the architecture of the building is light, airy and elegant, as such a building should be in such a place. It contains nearly one hundred rooms; but these and the general accommodations of the house having become wholly inadequate to the accommodation of the company, some dozen years ago a large additional building was erected, connected on the southerly side of the former edifice, which affords above a hundred rooms and a very large and commodious dining-hall. The out-buildings, the billiard hall, bathing-house, and even the bowling allies, and we had almost said the ice-house and hen-coops, are all in good taste, especially the first named, which is really a neat but a small sample of the "Grecian temple" style. These, (although we did not mean to say anything about it.) are all put to the blush by the "convenient addition!" However, as we enjoy the occupancy of very airy and pleasant rooms, enclosed by its outward ugliness, commanding most extensive views of the city and neighboring towns, and especially of the far-extending ocean, it may be as well to admit, (as we now do) that its interior advantages make amends for its exterior deformity. The handsome, cool and commodious dining hall, also,—we confess we have much respect for that, in con-

sideration of its own excellent qualities and the service to which it is appropriated. .

In our last, we gave a sketch of what might be done or seen at Nahant, to employ the time, and especially at morning and noon. A word of the evening hour may not be amiss here, particularly as we have been talking of the hotel. Breakfast is by many considered a dull meeting,—Dinner is often made as it were, a matter of business, generally to be *despatched*, as some of the railroad folks say, but Tea is a merry meeting. We confess we have often found it so; but *after tea* is the social hour at Nahant. At this time, the ladies and gentlemen, with their little responsibilities, generally repair to the long drawing-room. Some of the nimble fingers are always ready for the piano forte, and some of the nimble feet are ever ready for the dance, and thus the evening's social pleasures are commenced. The "young people" play, dance and sing, while those who choose, enjoy the familiar conversation, enlivened by delicate and sparkling wit. The senior part of the company congregate in groups, while many a soft word passes between those of fewer years, and who are more sensible to the mild influences of love.—There is fashion in everything, and not less in young love than in other things. Fashion is, in some sense, the life of love. People love, sometimes, because it is the fashion, and fashionable people must not be unfashionable. But we prove our position syllogistically thus: fashion is true taste, (or ought to be,) true taste is love-



ly; whatever is lovely is the life of love;—why then should not Nahant be the peculiar abode of the fickle goddess? Lovely in itself; fashionable for itself,—it is, for a season, the favorite resort of young hearts, worshipping at the shrine of the blind goddess.

There is nothing of dulness in an evening at Nahant. A walk, in the mild light of the moon, to the Spouting Horn, Swallow's Cave, or to any of the rocky prominences, is delightful,—the calm and unbroken quietude that reigns over the scene, is soothing to the mind, while the cool, pure air, invigorates the body. The glittering diamonds of the skies, shine out with a clearer brilliancy in the transparent air of Nahant, and the ocean wave curls its white foam, to catch, as it were, pearly gems from their soft light. The white sail is seen on the heaving wave, or it may be, lifted into the horizon, where the sky and sea unite in one line of space. The distant light houses cast their light across the broad expanse of waters for the mariners' aid and direction. These and other scenes serve to engage the attention and gratify the taste, before the hour of retiring, which invariably comes along sooner than is expected. A night's sleep at Nahant, in hot weather, is a luxury no where else to be enjoyed—if ice is a luxury at Canton, so is a bed at Drew's, of a hot August night!—To be appreciated it must be enjoyed—no one can describe its invigorating influence.



LETTER VII.

Cultivation of trees—Nahant robbed of its wood for fuel—Robert Page presented for 'setinge saille' with wood on Sunday—Order of the town for clearing the land—Considerations concerning Nahant; its past and present uses, its growth as a place of resort.

You could not but have remarked the fact stated, that in 1680, Nahant was well covered with forest trees, of various kinds, which since that time have all been destroyed. There are now but few trees of any age on the Peninsula, and those are principally *willows*. Efforts have been repeatedly made in years past, to rear trees of every description on Nahant, which so far, excepting in relation to the Balm of Gilead, have proved unsuccessful. Of this last description, Mr Tudor has raised a great number, and they have been set out along the road and over the peninsula very generally. They have thrived pretty well so far, and seem to stand the winter and winds very successfully.

Nahant was robbed of its wood, probably as the islands in Boston Harbor were,—for firewood. For instance, the inhabitants of Boston supplied themselves with wood from Noddle's

Island, now East Boston, and probably from the other islands. We find, in reference to Nahant, that on the 13th of June, 1668,—“Robert Page of Boston, was presented for setinge saille from Nahant; in his boate, *being Loaden with wood*; there by Profaining the Lord’s Daye.” It was no offence to take wood from Nahant—the offence appears to have consisted in taking it on *Sunday*. On the contrary, the town of Lynn, in 1656, passed an order for clearing of the land, laying a penalty of 50 shillings on those who neglected to clear their lots in six years. The following is the order from the town records of Lynn:

“At a towne meeting held February 24, 1656, It was voted that Nahant should be laid out in planting lotts, and every householder should have equal in the dividing of it, noe man more than another, and every person to clear of his wood in 6 years, and he or they that do not clear their lotts of the wood, shall pay 50 shillings for the towne’s use. Alsoe, every householder is to have his and their lotts for 7 years, and it is to be laid downe for a pasture for the towne, and in the seventh year, every one that hath improved his lott by planting shall then, that is in the seventh year, sowe their lott with English corne, and in every acre of land as they improve, they shall with their English corne, sow one bushell of hay seed, and soe proportionable to all the land that is improved, a bushell of hay seed to one acre of land, and it is to be remembered that no person is to raise any kind of building at all,



and for laying out this land there is chosen Francis Ingals, Henry Collins, James Axce, Adam Hawckes, Lieut. Thomas Marshall, John Hathorne, Andrew Mansfield."

We have seen that Nahant was originally the resort of wolves and other wild beasts; next the resort of the savage, who came here for food and amusement on the beaches; next it was formed into a pasture for the "cattle and swine" of the first settlers; afterwards it was improved for the catching and curing of fish and its lands appropriated with conditions relating to that use; it was used as a wood lot, to furnish fuel, not only to "Saugust," (Lynn, and all the vicinity,) but to Boston; it was sold for a suit of clothes, reclaimed and sold again for two old coats; was mortgaged for £10 to Mr Davison; was again sold for two "pestle stones;" was afterwards lotted out to be cultivated, on certain conditions which we have mentioned; became the subject of long and tedious litigation among the early settlers;—and *two hundred years* afterwards it became the frequent resort of pleasure parties from Boston and all the country round, affording no accommodations but its native roughness, and the roughness of its natives. The former is well known, and the latter is well remembered. There were but three or four families of white people on Nahant at this time. It had then been robbed of its trees, and shorn of much of its beauty. These families were very shy of visitors—they disliked the intrusion—would run



affrighted when they saw them coming—and it was with great difficulty that any thing in the nature of cooking utensil or food, could be obtained from them. They would shut their doors in the faces of strangers and escape to their back rooms or chambers of safety. Subsequently to this time (say about 1815 and up to 1820.) parties frequently went to Nahant in carriages.—A gentleman lately informed me that they used to start from Boston by daylight in the morning, taking with them every thing which they would need except *fish*. Mr Wood, who kept a house there, would cook for them, and perhaps furnish a few vegetables.

Visitors became so frequent, and applications for various little accommodations so common, that the necessary intercourse increased, and finally these very people began to make it an object to accommodate parties of pleasure, so far as they were able, and to charge them, as we have been told, most unconscionable prices for the smallest favors. This also naturally led to the opening of several houses for public entertainment, which are now standing in the village, some half mile from the Hotel. From the time of which we have been speaking to the present, Nahant has been the resort of companies of friends, families and parties, for the enjoyment of its salubrious air, sea-bathing and its excellent fish. In uncivilized and barbarous times, it was the resort of wild beasts, the roaming field and the pleasure ground of the savage; in after ages and in more enlightened times, it is now



the resort of the gay, the beautiful, the rich, the refined. The fair-haired and bright-eyed beauty of our own country, the stars and gems of female literature and loveliness from other climes, men of genius, learning, and fame—all now resort for recreation and enjoyment to the early pleasure ground and hunting field of the untutored savage!

LETTER VIII.

Disappointment on visiting Nahant—Looking out for the Sea-Serpent—Correct idea of Nahant—"a watering place," toward the Ocean—Few trees and shrubbery, but not without cultivation—No foxes, wolves or bears now; but rocks, beaches, fish, scenery, air, minerals, specimens of natural history, &c.

WHEN persons visit Nahant for the first time and for a short time, it is seldom the case that they are not disappointed. They have very likely heard of Nahant—perhaps have heard much about it, and in many cases expect to see the sea serpent, or some other wonder, *of course*.—We remember, on our first visit to Nahant, we looked for his snakeship all the way on the passage, and went incontinently to the piazza of the

hotel, with glass in hand, about as much prepared to see him as though we had come to witness an established exhibition. *Of course*, we did not see him—his majesty did not choose to be stared at as a show! He only shows himself, when it suits himself to be seen. *En passant*, of the Sea Serpent: without much doubting the existence of such a creature as the Sea Serpent, ourselves, we have reason to believe that something else is seen very often and reported to be the real serpent. The creature called a Sea Serpent may be frequently seen; but then other things or creatures, are also seen and also called the Sea Serpent; and this mistake often makes trouble and tends to bring discredit upon those who really have seen *the* Sea Serpent. Of late years at Nahant, everything uncommon, and sometimes even a ledge of rocks, which surely is not very uncommon here, is “cracked up to be” the Sea Serpent; and thus the credulous are imposed upon—the veracity of many intelligent and truth-speaking witnesses discredited, and an air of falsehood thrown over the whole story.

But people are liable to be disappointed in respect to Nahant, more in other matters even, than in relation to the existence and appearance of the Sea Serpent. Each person has most likely formed in his mind's eye, some idea of the place; and the chance is, that in most cases it will be erroneous. The first correct idea—that Nahant is a “*watering place*,” does not sufficiently impress them. *It is out in the ocean*; yet hundreds look for such things, and such scenery,



and such recreations, as they would be likely to find 20 or 50 miles in the interior. They expect, at least, to find trees and shrubbery, and it may be woods and groves, but even in this they are to be disappointed. Trees, woods and shrubbery, were once here, but so far from cultivating or endeavoring to preserve them were the early settlers, that they proposed a *fine if they were not all cut down in six years!*—The place was at that time,—nearly two centuries ago,—thickly wooded, and the resort of wolves and foxes. But now, alas, there is not a single tree, unless some two or three ancient cedars have escaped the axe, of the original growth on the peninsula; and as to wolves and foxes, excepting in the deep fissures of the rocks, there is no place to hide their heads!

Still Nahant is not entirely without cultivation, and is yearly improving in this respect. There are now some very handsome gardens belonging to the inhabitants and to the summer cottages; and our friend Drew has some fifteen or twenty acres under a high state of cultivation, and has recently extended and improved his large garden. The “store of good land fit for the plow,” mentioned in history, is in a fair way to be cultivated and improved under *his* administration and by force and success of *his* example. There are several fine fields of grain, and of the sugar-beet now in a very prosperous condition, looking and promising as well as any in the interior, besides abundance of garden vegetables and good mowing land; and these

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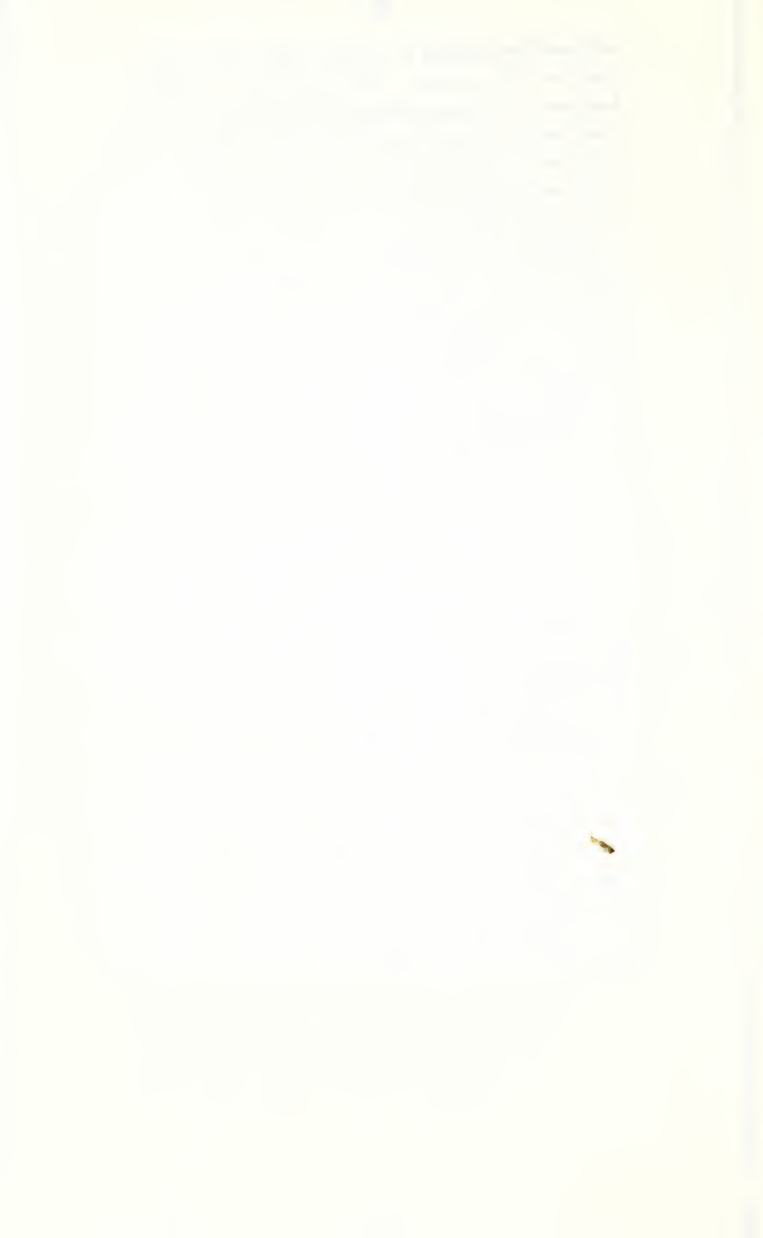
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are much less liable to injury from early frost than in the country. The growing of trees, however, as we have already mentioned, is somewhat less successful, it being almost impossible to preserve them through the winter storms.—They are probably killed by the *salt-water spray* blown over them, during the continuance of severe storms. In these storms the waves dash quite over the highest rocks around the shore. We have been informed that they are frequently seen to “o’ertop” the “Pulpit Rock;” and the *spray* is then blown by the wind over the land, even to overflow the piazza of the hotel,—this it is, we suppose, which kills the young trees. There are, nevertheless, a few scattering trees that survive, in certain locations,—the little *Elm*, in front of the bath-house, and protected by it from the spray, lives on from year to year, and a few others in sheltered situations, seem as yet to survive the wintry blasts. It is very probable that trees of various kinds, will flourish here, as buildings multiply to break off the wind and afford them shelter, but those produced from the seed and not transplanted from a different soil, will undoubtedly thrive best.

We cannot flatter ourselves yet, however, that those who feel disappointed at not finding Nahant a *country place*, are very soon to be gratified in their expectations. Its “store of good ground” may be cultivated, but woods, groves, and orchards, it may not yet have. In truth, desirable as these may be, Nahant does not need them—they may better be sought for elsewhere.



Nahant has its rocks, beaches, caves, fish, sea-air, ocean-scenery, its bath-houses and its hotel,—and these are enough! These make it what it is,—a healthful and delightful resort, and those who seek for such a place, where are constantly seen the sublimest exhibitions of nature, in the ocean-wave, the rock-bound island, and in the glorious heavens,—need feel no disappointment on visiting Nahant. Characterised as Nahant is, by the majestic and sublime, it is still not deficient in some of the pleasing lesser works of nature: the wild flower in its fields, the minerals in its bosom, the shells on its shore, the birds on its marshes, and the fish in its waters,—afford infinite sources of study and gratification to the casual observer as to the lover of natural history.

LETTER IX.

Nahant the resort of savage and civilized life—Some further description of its topography—Preservation of Long Beach by a causeway.

ONCE Nahant was the resort of the savage, and our readers have seen what kind of a resort it was to them. It is now the resort of the most refined of civilized life, and we have seen what kind of a resort it is for them. The Indian enjoyed it in all its natural beauty and freshness;



we enjoy it, shorn of much of its original beauty but unimpaired in its solid and sublime grandeur.

Those of our readers who have followed these pages thus far, if they have never visited Nahant, must have formed some idea of it; but it nevertheless, may be proper that we should attempt some further description. Nahant may be called an arm of land extending into the sea; or a "necke of land," as Mr Wood called it. It extends over *three miles* from the shore of Lynn: passing over the Beach from Lynn, nearly a mile and three quarters, we come to Little Nahant, (an island, except the beach connections,) containing nearly 50 acres, and consisting of two principal elevations or hills; then passing over the lesser Beach, one half mile in length, we come to the larger nebulae, or island, called Great Nahant. On this is the village, the cottages, the church, the hotels, landing, &c. A very considerable part of the lesser Nahant is under good cultivation, being covered with fields of "waving corn" and other productions of the farmer.

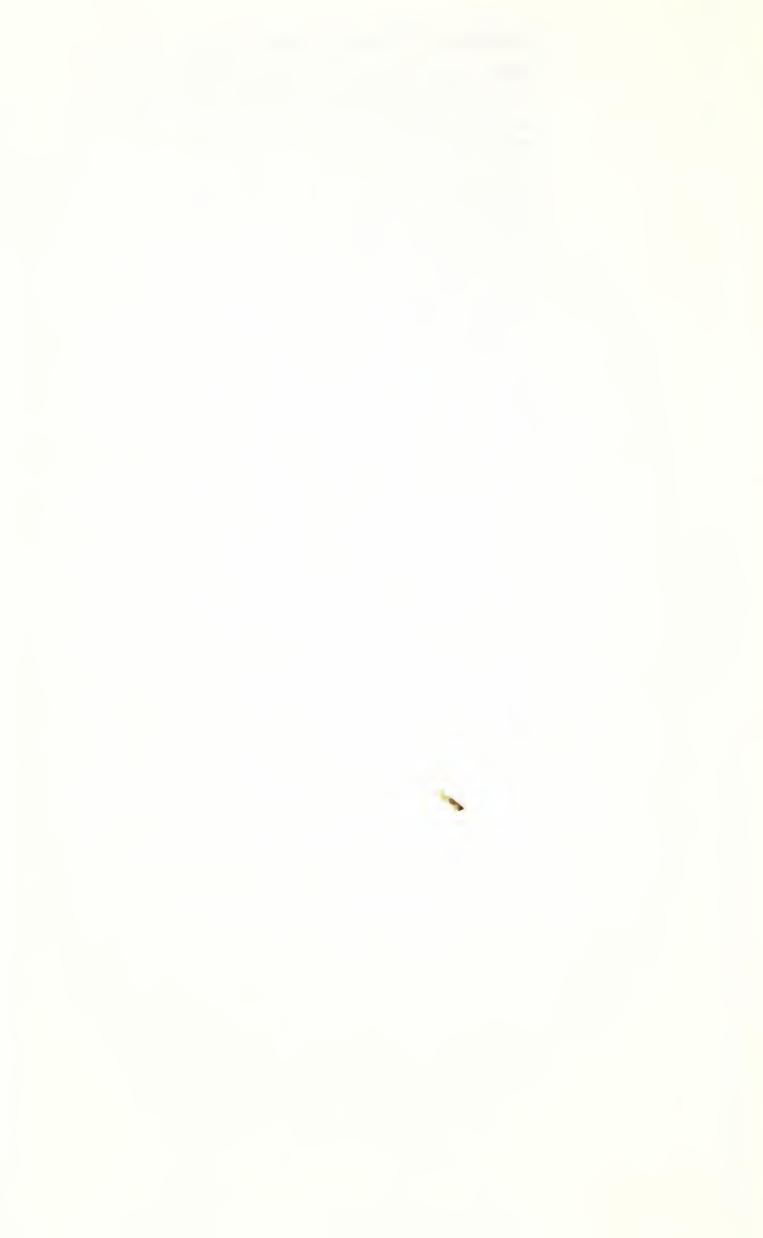
Besides the two principal beaches, there are eight or nine shorter beaches around the two Nahants, and excepting these, the shore is entirely rock-bound, so that the "very aspect of the place is fortification enough to keepe off an unknown enemy." To pass around the entire shore of the Nahants, the distance would probably be from eight to ten miles.

Nahant does not extend in a straight line from

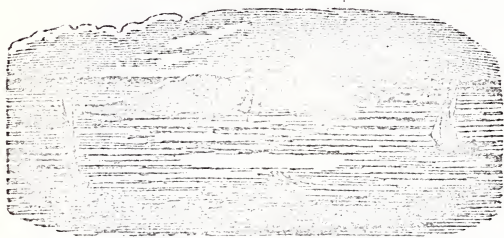


the shore of Lynn into the Ocean. The long beach runs in a curved line, and the short beach with Great Nahant, somewhat resembles a *boot* in shape, having, to be sure, a rather large foot. The long beach is a great protection to the harbor of Lynn, and its preservation has been deemed so essential that in 1824, a causeway of planks, filled in with sand, was constructed, at the joint expense of the State and the town of Lynn, each appropriating the sum of \$1500. The subject of preserving this beach and harbor was introduced at the session of Congress in 1838, and an appropriation of \$39,000 determined upon, but lost among the mass of other unfinished business.

The beach has no doubt undergone very considerable changes, and is in fact perpetually changing. Within the last half century, its breadth is supposed to have been reduced one half, and it has become more curved than formerly. It is a question whether there was not some extent of soil on this beach, in early time, as stumps of large trees are now to be seen in some places. On some of the smaller beaches also, stumps of large trees are found. The soil of the long beach has undoubtedly aided in the formation of the extensive marshes of Lynn, which have been formed by the wash of the sea. The original surface of these marshes is five feet below the present surface.



CURIOSITIES OF NAHANT.



Egg Rock is said to be two miles N.E. of Nahant in the midst of a broad expanse of water. It appears from the hotel to be a naked rock, but contains two or three acres of land. It is seldom visited except by sea birds, on account of the danger of landing. We saw some time since, a bolt of lightning strike on the summit of this rock, with a tremendous crash. It appeared to be, as it descended from the dense, black cloud, nearly as large round as a man's body, and the concussion almost stunned persons who were witnessing the storm from the piazzas of the hotel. In years past, many eggs of sea-birds have been obtained on this rock. Its summit is higher than the observatory on the hotel.

CURIOUSITIES OF NATURE



The first of these is the fact that the
 heart is the only organ in the body which
 It grows from the top of the spine and
 but continues to grow until it is about the
 seldom found except in the form of a small
 the danger of being killed by the same
 since, a fall of blood, which would mean
 this part, with a few exceptions, is the only
 ed to be so small, and the only one which
 closed, being able to contract and expand
 and the reason for this is that the heart
 were witnessing the whole thing, and
 detail. In general, the heart is a
 that have been observed in the human
 this is higher than the objects of the

THE SWALLOW'S CAVE is a passage under a high cliff on the west side of Nahant, a few rods south of the steamboat wharf. It is easily accessible, is from 6 to 20 feet high, and from 5 to 14 feet in breadth; extending about 70 feet, opening to the water. It can be entered at



about half tide. The swallows have built their nests in the upper part of this cavern, on ledges or *notches* in the rocks. The passage through it is rather uneven, but may nevertheless be accomplished by ladies with ease and safety. Passing through this cave, you may ascend by climbing over the rocks, to the height above, without returning the way you descend to the opening.

THE SPOUTING HORN is a peculiar fissure in the rocks, on the eastern shore of Nahant, near Lindsey's Hill. The water is driven in by the waves through a deep channel, a hundred feet



before it enters the Spouting Horn, and is then, (at about half tide,) forced into a cavernous tunnel about 30 feet, from thence the water is literally "spouted," and thus returns in froth and spray to meet the next wave. In a storm, it is a grand sight, and is at all times worth a visit. A path leads to it, and it is about half a mile from the hotel. The cliff of rocks in which it is formed, is about 50 feet above the sea, but the spectator may descend to the entrance of the tunnel.

PULPIT ROCK.



The PULPIT Rock is a great curiosity. It stands off the south end of Nahant, not far from the Swallow's Cave. It is an immense square block of rock, about 30 feet high, having a square



open space at top, resembling in shape, an easy chair, which is called the pulpit. It is difficult to reach the top by climbing, the sides are so perpendicular. In storms the waves dash over this rock with great force, the wind driving the spray like rain all around, for some distance. Its location is on the extreme southerly end of Nahant, only a minute's walk from the hotel. It is well worth a visit.

"THE SISTERS," which are two tall slender rocks, toward the S. W. point of Nahant, a short distance from Pulpit rock, resemble each other so exactly as to have obtained the name of the sisters.

THE SMOKER'S CAVE is a recent discovery, and is on the headland, directly below the Billiard Room. It is a nice cool cover, under the immense shelving rocks, where several persons may sit and smoke their choice cigar. It is furnished with a spring of fresh water.

THE "ROARING CAVERN" is near the Smoker's Cave, on the left of it, among the same cluster of rocks. It is a *thin* shelving cavern, which extends under a point of rocks, and the sea breaking in on the opposite side, gives forth a roaring sound, resembling at times, the rumbling of distant thunder.

THE NATURAL BRIDGE is near the Pulpit Rock, and is a wedge of rocks, as it were, suspended like an arch, over a deep and broad fissure. It is not easy to cross the Bridge, as it is below the surrounding ground.



There are various other formations, possessing much interest, about the rocky shore and the high cliffs of Nahant, which the curious observer will readily discover. On the Little Nahant (nearest Lynn,) is the Grotto, Wolf's Cavern, Fox Cavern, &c. On the Great Nahant, there are also, the Dashing Rock, Iron Mine, &c.

The Indians used the Long Beach as their play ground, for running, leaping, shooting, dancing, foot-ball, &c.

The harbors and coves about Nahant were famous for Ducks, so that persons have killed "50 Duckes at a shot." Sportsmen frequent Nahant now for the same game, in the winter season, but seldom do so well as the above.

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA-

In 1633, Thomas Dexter, (the purchaser of Nahant,) was ordered to be "set in the bilbowes, disfranchised and fined X£. for *speaking* reproachful and seditious *words* against the government here established."

The same year, the poor Indian, Black William, (who sold Nahant to farmer Dexter,) was hung at Richman's Island, Scarborough, Me., "in revenge for the murder of Walter Bagnall, who was killed by the Indians on the 3d of October, 1631." It does not appear that Black William had any part in the murder, and if he



had, Gov. Winthrop says that Bagnall was "a wicked fellow and had much wronged the Indians."

In 1634, on training-day, by direction of Mr Humphrey, Capt. Turner went with his company to Nahant, to hunt the wolves by which it was infested.

In 1635, Jan. 11, it was "voted by the freeman of the towne, that these men underwritten shall have liberty to plant and build at Nahant, and shall possess each man land for the said purpose, and proceeding in the trade of fishing.— Mr Humfreys, Daniel How, Mr Ballard, Joseph Belknap, Francis Dent, Timothy Tomlins, Richard Walker, Thomas Talmage, Henry Fenkes."

Jan. 18, "It is ordered by the freemen of the towne, that all such persons as are assigned any land at Nahant, to further the trade of making fish, that if they do not proceed accordingly to forward the said trade, but either doe grow remiss, or else give it quite over, that then all such lotts shall be forfeited againe to the towne, to dispose of as shall be thought fit."

1637, on the 15th November, the name of the town was changed from Saugus to Lynn. The Court record is, "Saugust is called Lin."

1638, on 15th March, "Lynn was granted 6 miles into the country; and Mr Hawthorne and Leift Davenport to view and inform how the land beyond lyeth, whether it be fit for another plantation or no." From this sprung Lynnfield.

In 1646, Thomas Dexter was presented at the



Quarterly sessions in August, for a common sleeper in meetings for public worship, and fined.

1652, Winnepurkitt, on the 1st of April, mortgaged "all that tract of land commonly called Nahant," to Nicholas Davison of Charlestown, "for twenty pounds sterling dew many yeer."

In 1660, three acres of land at Nahant, a part of Edward Holyoke's estate, were sold for £6. Two oxen were sold at the same time for £12.

1668. 13th June, Robert Paige of Boston, was presented, "for settinge saille from Nahant, in his boate, being Loaden with wood, there by Profaining the Lord's daye."

Christopher Lindsey, (whose name is preserved in Lindsey's Hill,) died this year. He lived on Nahant.

1678, James Mills lived on Nahant, one of the first inhabitants. Rice's tavern now stands on the spot where he lived. He was a shepherd and had seven children. Dorothy's Cove was so named after one of his daughters, who used to bathe there very frequently.

In 1689, Sir Edmund Andros, then Governor of Massachusetts, assumed the ownership of Nahant with the intention of bestowing it on Edward Randolph, his Secretary, as a reward for his services. This caused more trouble to the people of the plantation. Randolph petitioned Andros for the gift.

In remonstrating against this proceeding, the town state, that they have possessed and improved Nahant, "well onward to sixty years;" that they "have paid their monies by way of purchase" for it, and that it is the only secure place

they have "for the grazing of *some thousands* of sheep."

There is a ledge of rocks on the northern shore of Nahant, once thought to be valuable, as an Iron Mine. In 1791, the town voted, that "Mr Hubbard of Braintree, should give three shillings for every ton of Rock Mine, that he has from Nahant, to the town, for the town's use, and he to have so much as the town sees convenient." We suspect he did not use much of it.

In 1695, the Nahant was claimed by Mrs Mary Daffern and Mrs Martha Padishall, widows and heiresses of Richard Woodey, Jr. then late of Boston, deceased. They were defaulted by the Court. Their claim was founded on Dexter's purchase.

In 1698, this year James Mills killed five foxes on Nahant.

The town ordered that no person should cut more than seven trees on Nahant, under a penalty of forty shillings for each tree exceeding that number.

In 1704, 6th March, the town took measures to prevent the cutting down of trees, &c. at Nahant. "Being informed that several persons had cut down several trees or *bushes* in Nahant, *whereby there is likely to be no shade for the creatures*, voted, that no person hereafter should cut any tree or bush there, under penalty of 10s.

In 1706, at Lynn, the lands held "in common," including Nahant and excepting only the trainingfield, were divided among the freeholders.—Nahant was laid out in ranges, and in small lots of from 20 Poles to five acres.

In the great snow storm of 1717, a great number of Deer came from the woods for food, and some fled to Nahant, and being chased *by the wolves*, leaped into the sea, and were drowned.

1722. Between 1698 and 1722, there were killed in Lynn woods and on Nahant, 428 foxes, for which the town paid 2s each.

1749. An extremely hot and dry summer.—Immense multitudes of grasshoppers appeared. They were so numerous at Nahant that the inhabitants walked together with bushes in their hands, and drove them by thousands, into the sea. Hay was scarce and imported from England.

Before the year 1800, there were only three dwelling houses at Nahant, viz. the houses of Jonathan Johnson, Nehemiah Breed, and Abner Hood. The frame of the first named house, built about 120 yrs. ago, is now in the house of Caleb Johnson.

In 1803, Aug. 23, a hotel on the western part of Nahant was burnt—the only house ever burnt there. It was owned by Capt. Joseph Johnson, and was soon after rebuilt.

In 1809, Sept. 20, a flock of sheep on Nahant was struck by lightning, and 13 killed.

In 1817, the first of the new cottages was built by Hon. Thos. H. Perkins, near the Spouting Horn.

The SEA SERPENT is said first to have been seen this year, at Gloucester, Cape Ann.

In 1818, a neat stone building was erected for a school house and library, in which divine service was occasionally performed. An elegant folio Prayer Book, once the property of Geo.

IV. of England, was presented to this library by the lady of Governor Gore. Several hundred volumes were received as donations, from Boston and other places.

This year a committee of five persons from different towns was appointed to settle the long existing difficulties between the proprietors of Nahant lots and the people of Lynn, to the right to take sea weed, sand, stone, drift wood, &c. from the coves and beaches of Nahant. The Committee, however, did not decide upon the matter.

In 1820, June, the steam boat Eagle run between Hingham and Boston, and Boston and Nahant, leaving Hingham at 6 A. M.; Boston at 9; Nahant at 3 1-2 P. M. and Boston for Hingham again, at 5.

The Hotel was built this year, by Hon. Thos. H. Perkins, Dr Edw. H. Robbins, and others.

In July, the Sea Serpent was again seen. On 5th Aug. it was seen off Phillips's Point, about a quarter of a mile distant—sea calm. J. B. Lewis, Andrew Reynolds and Benj. King, went out in a boat after him, and got within 30 yards of him. One of them counted 23 bunches on his back; head black, resembling common serpents, two feet above the water, and about the size of a common fire bucket. Was seen again the next day.

1832. A new and beautiful church was built this year, by funds furnished chiefly by the liberal subscriptions of the summer residents.

1842. This year the residents at Nahant petitioned for incorporation as a separate town.

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